

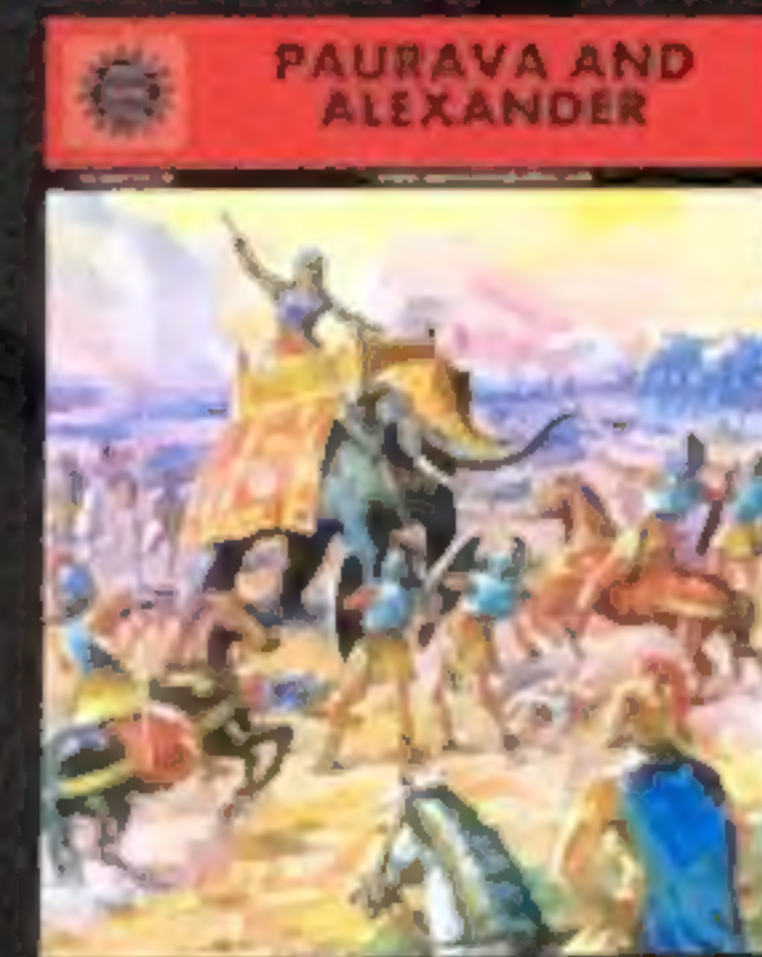
KOCHUNNI

Kochunni ran away from home, to avoid living with his thieving parents. But wherever he went, people insisted on treating the little boy as a thief himself.

Kochunni grew up determined to make his mark on the world and to fight injustice and prejudice. He became a highwayman, a daring Robin Hood-like figure who robbed the rich and gave the poor. He liked to target the most arrogant and cruel landlords and teach them a lesson. With his martial skills and his daring, Kochunni managed to outwit everyone.

Kochunni's sense of mischief makes him the subject of many folk tales in Kerala.

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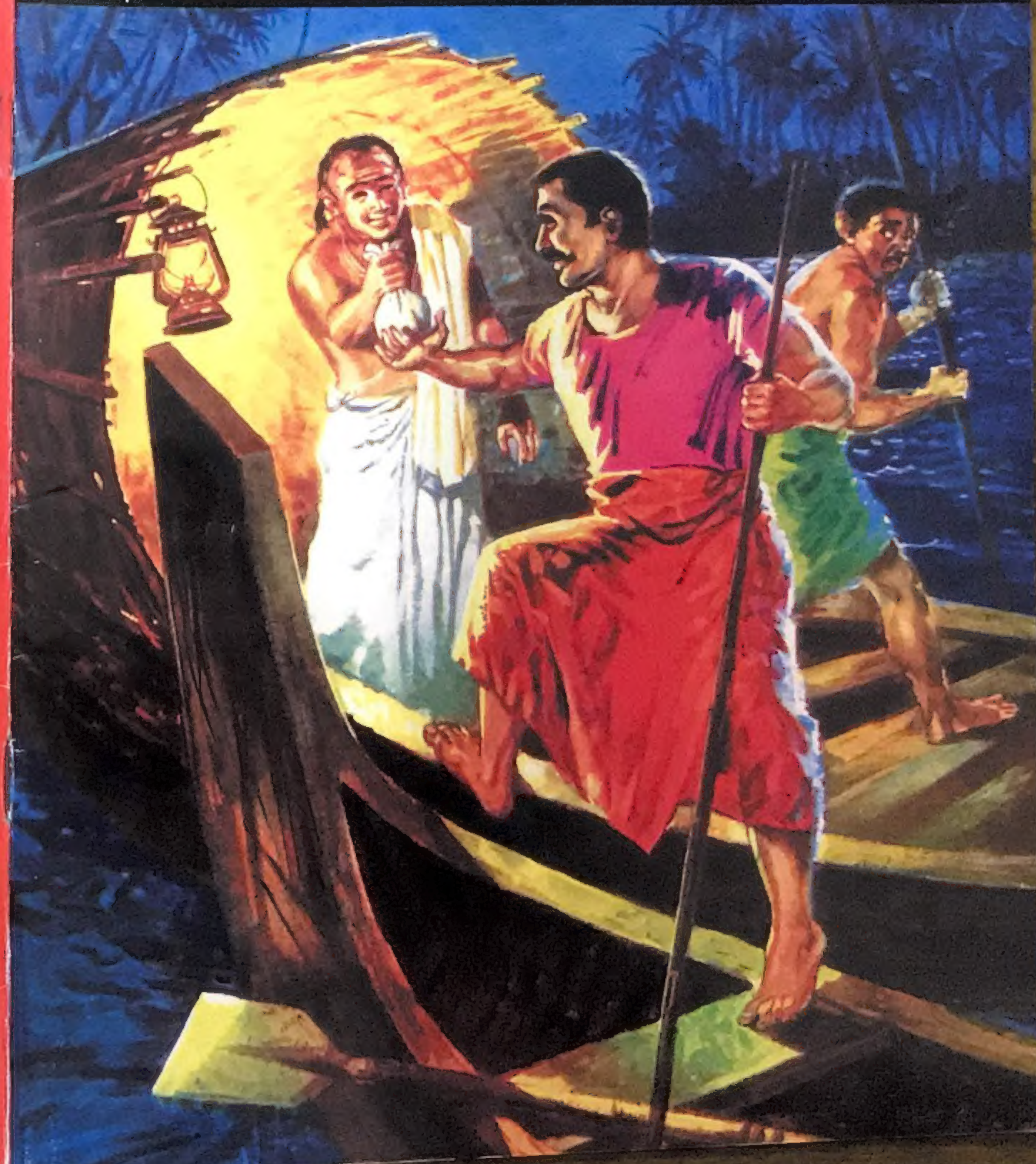
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

KOCHUNNI



KOCHUNNI LIVED WITH HIS PARENTS AT KAYAMKULAM, A LITTLE-KNOWN TOWN IN CENTRAL KERALA.

KOCHUNNI'S PARENTS WERE POOR. HIS FATHER WAS A PETTY THIEF.



DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

FASTER, KOCHUNNI!

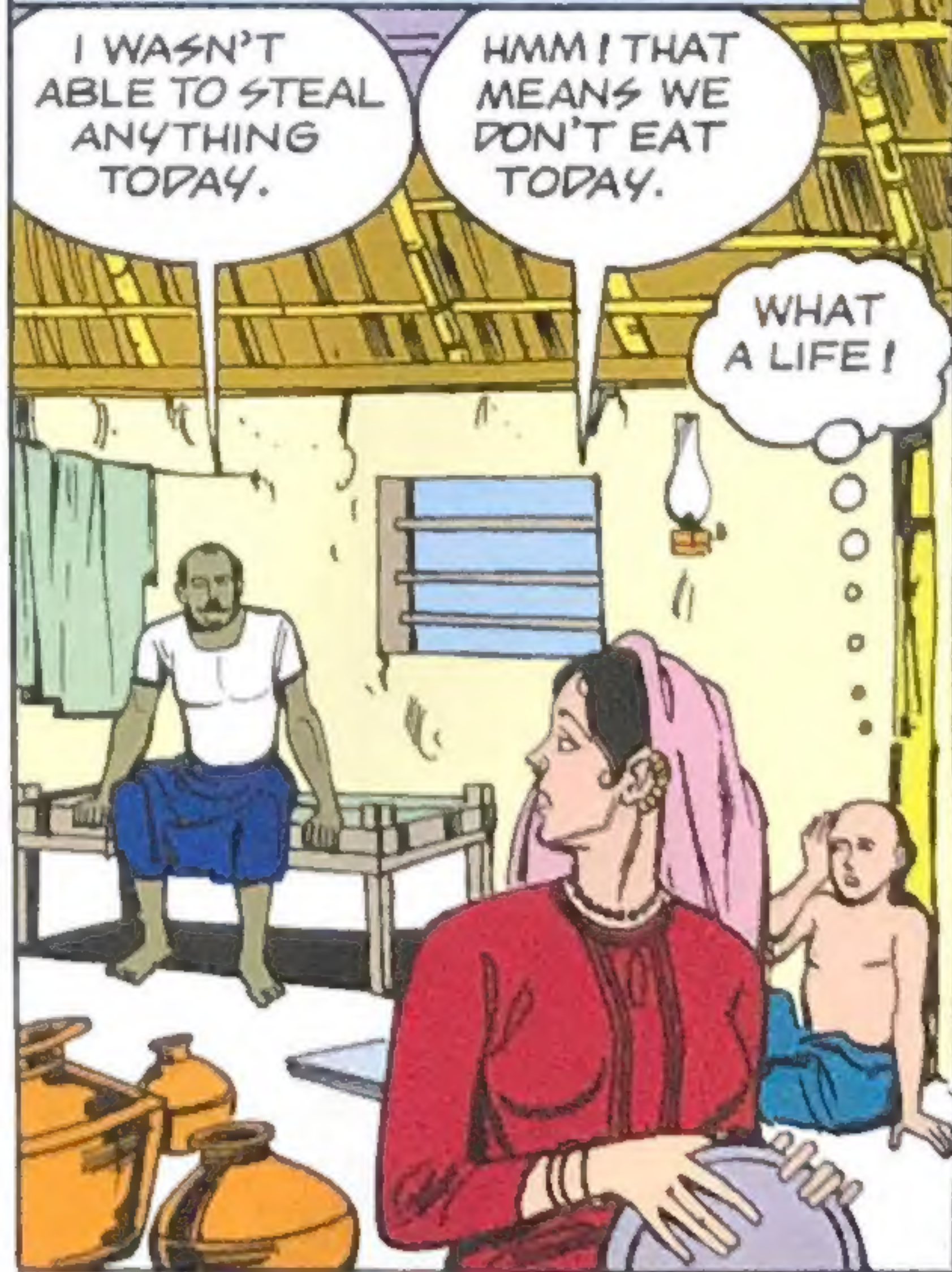
YES... FATHER.

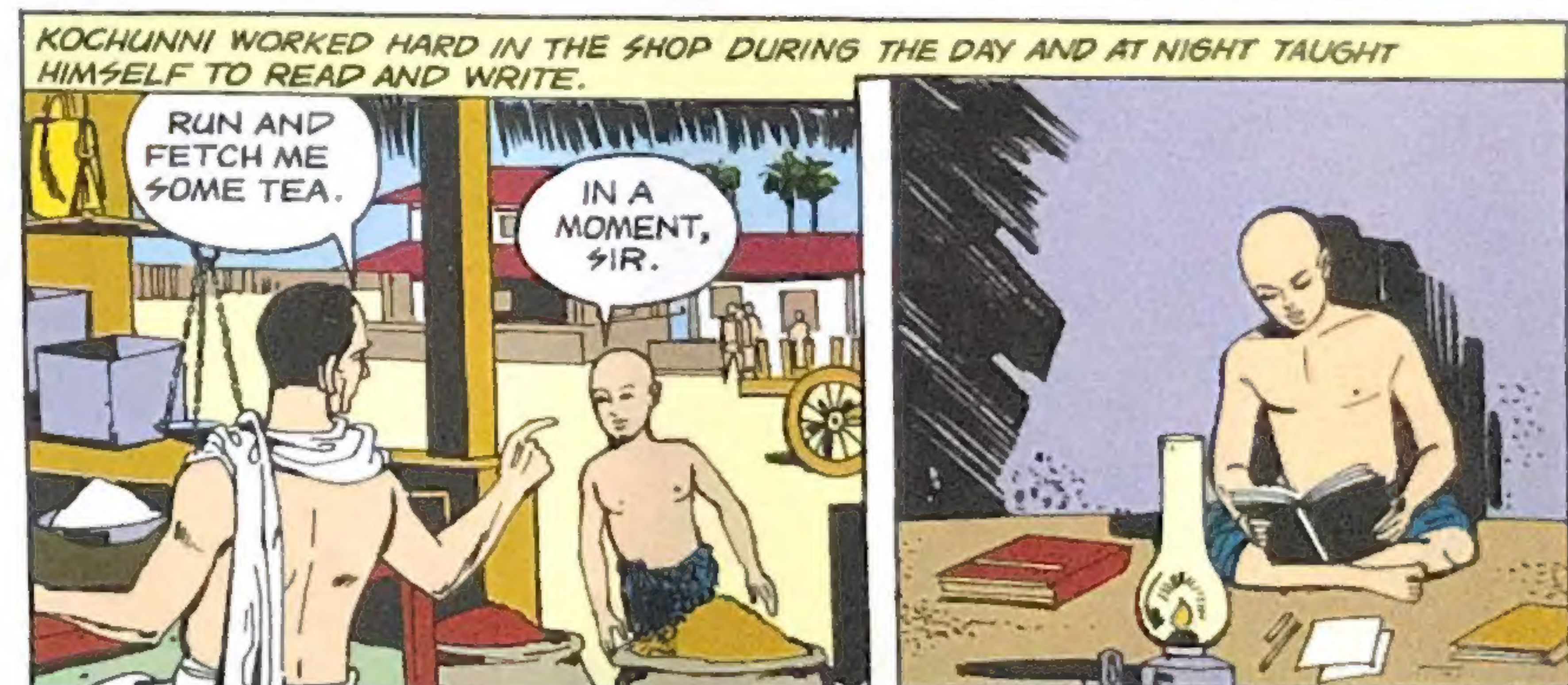
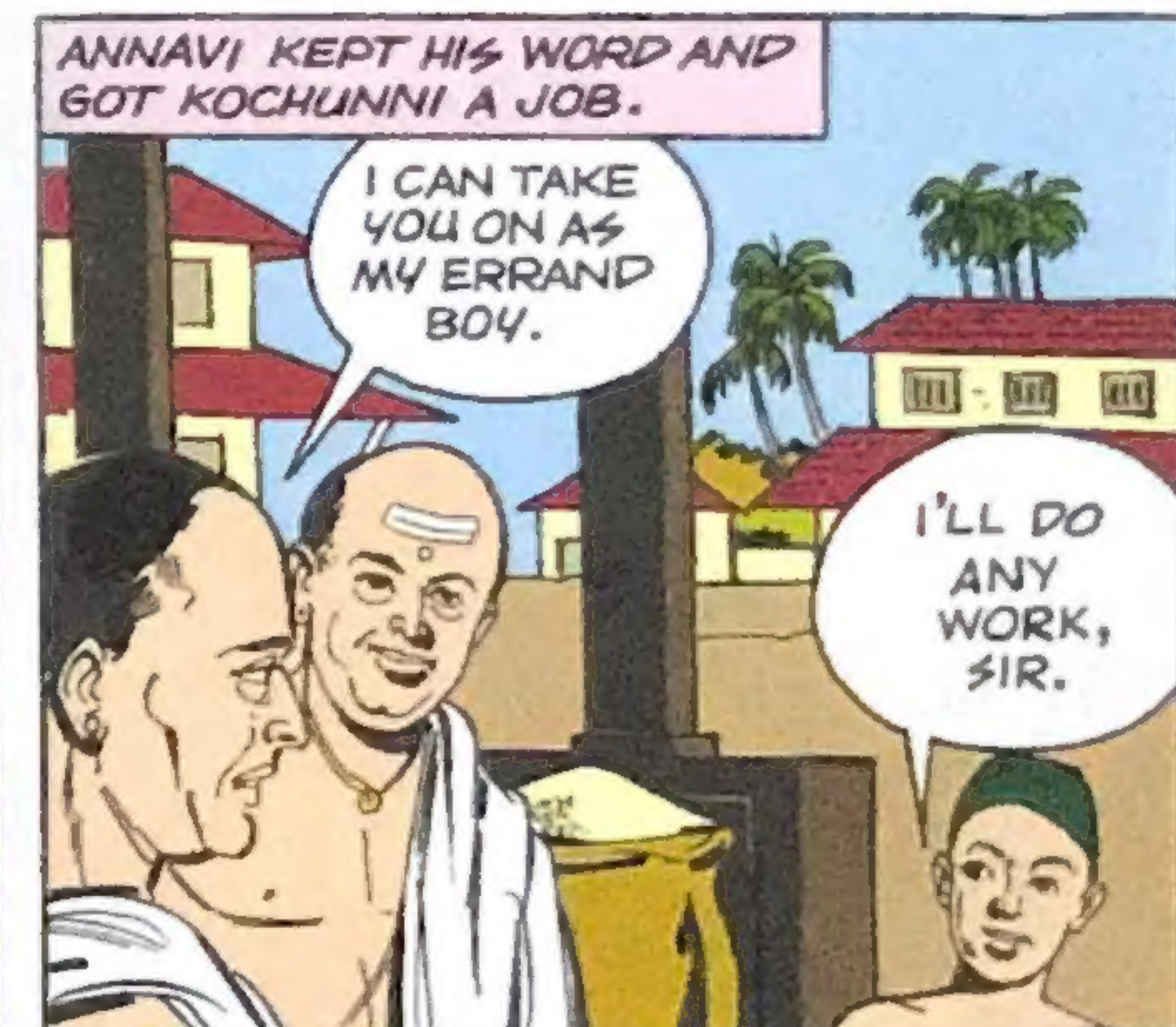
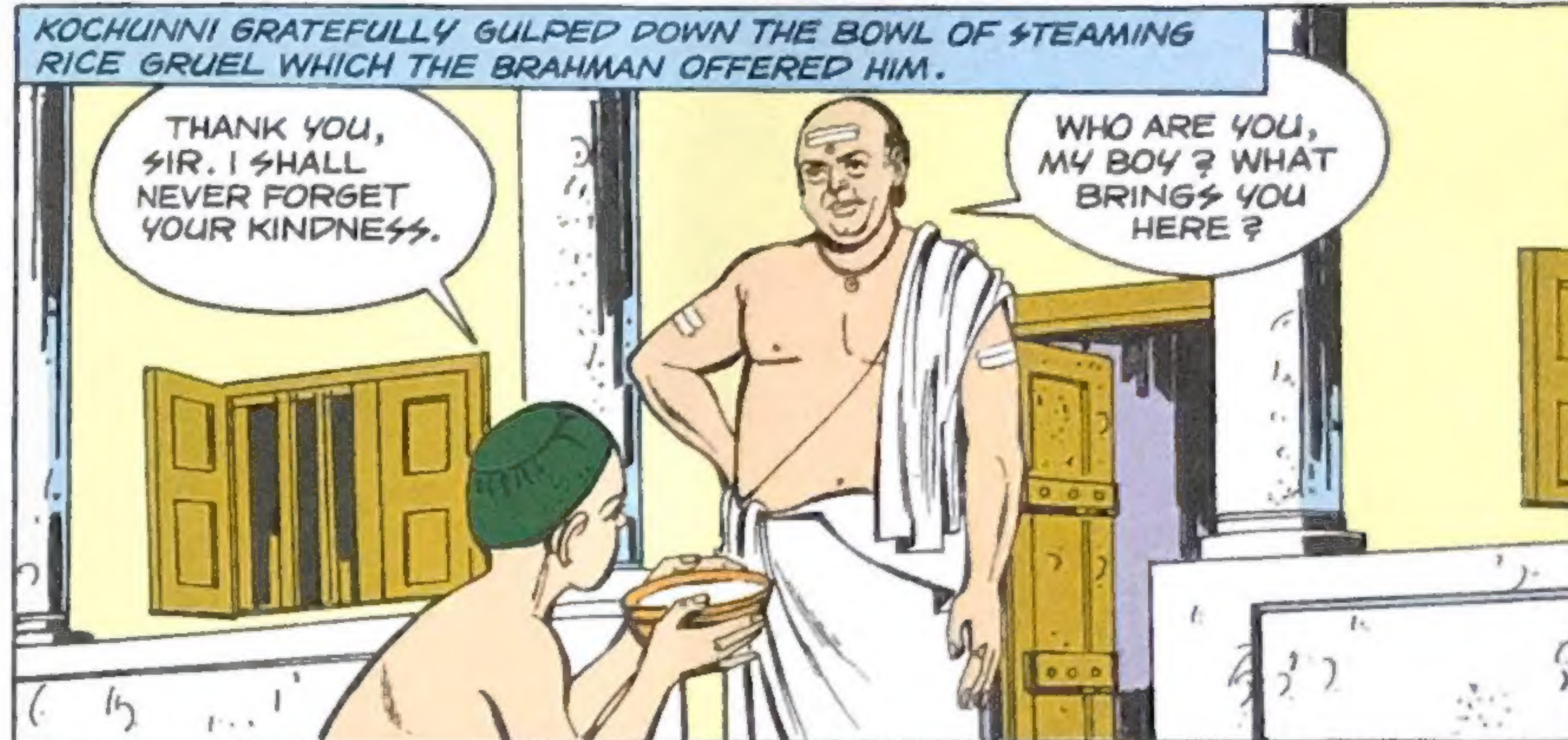
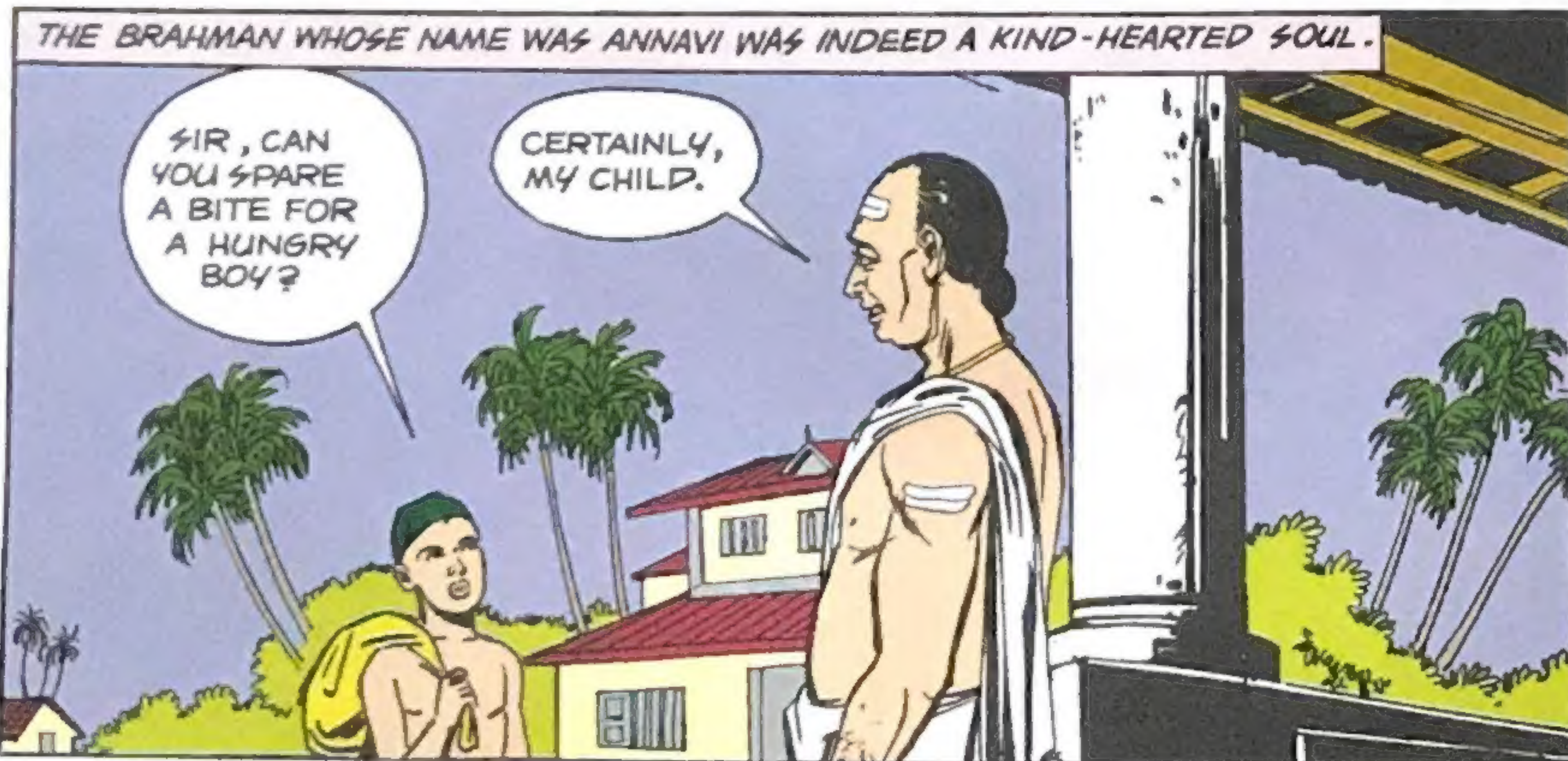
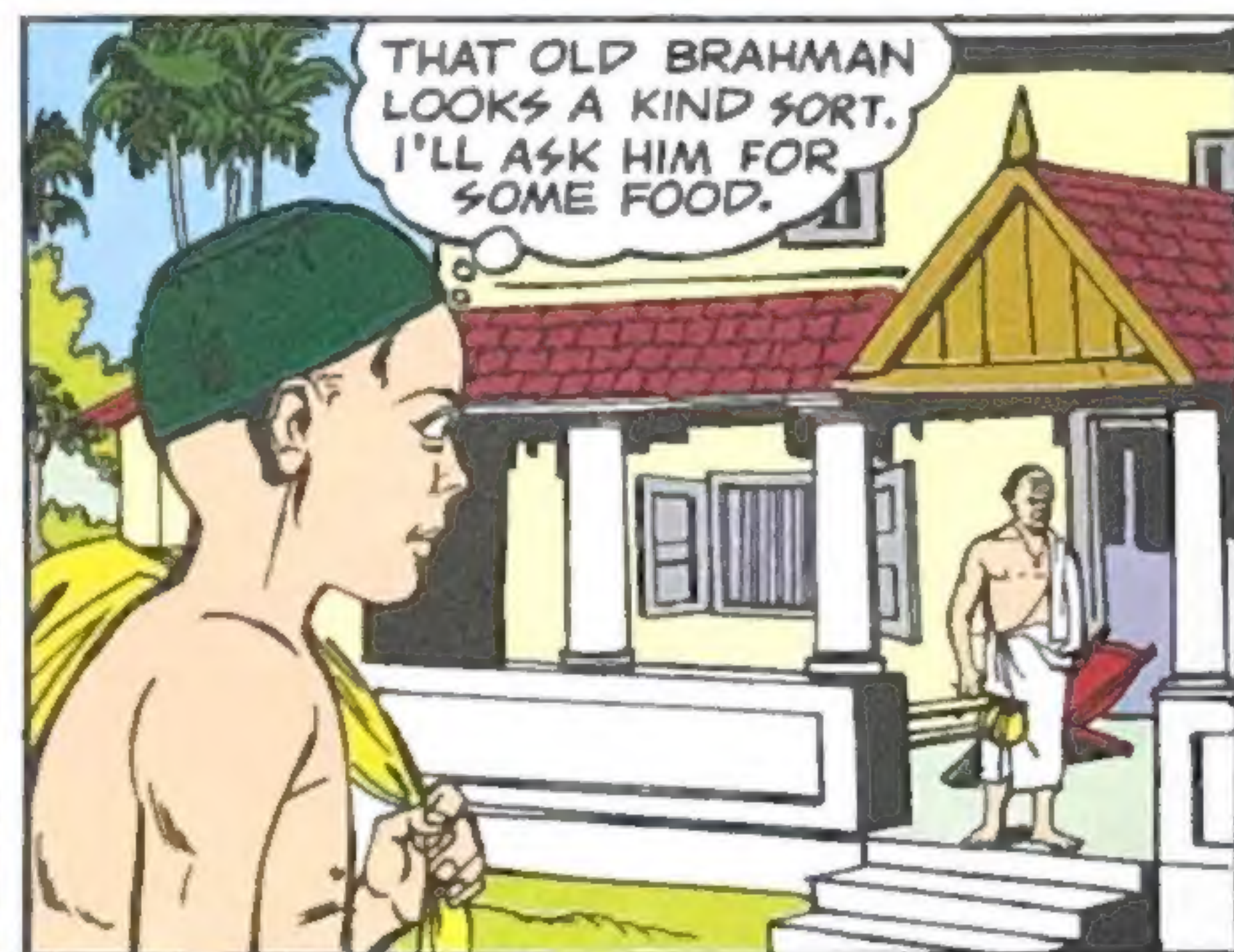
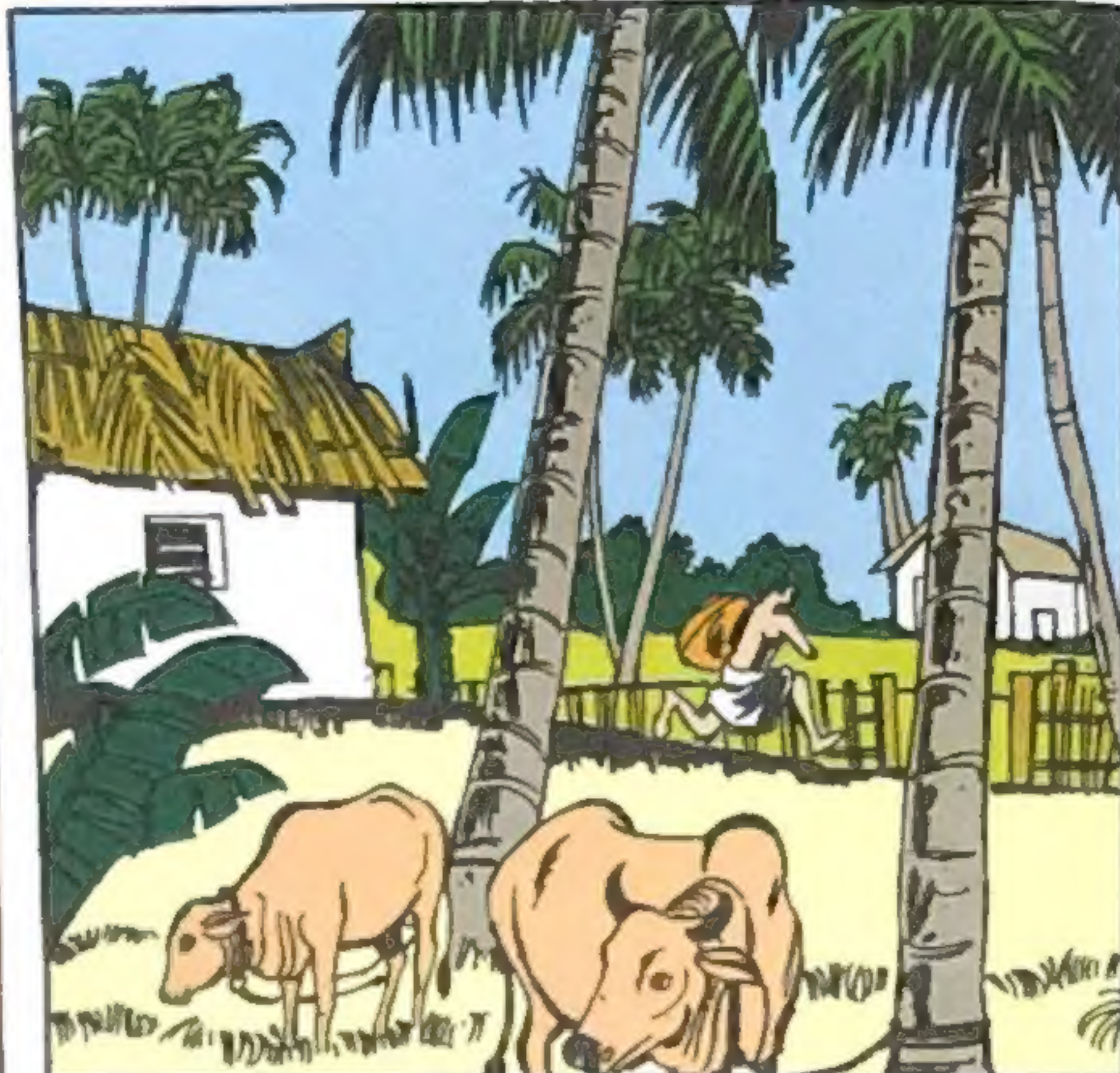
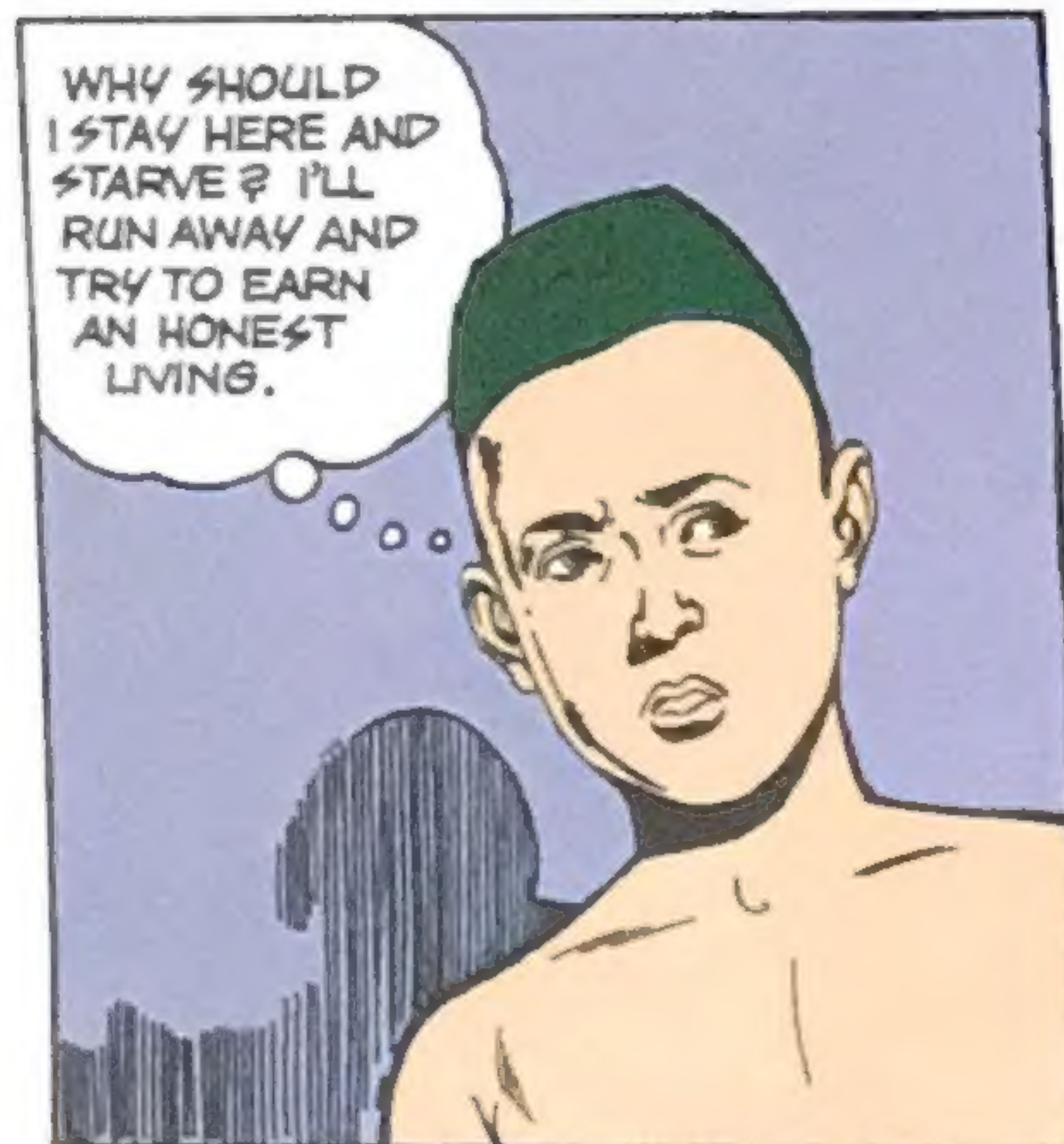
YOUNG KOCHUNNI WENT HUNGRY MOST OF THE TIME.

I WASN'T ABLE TO STEAL ANYTHING TODAY.

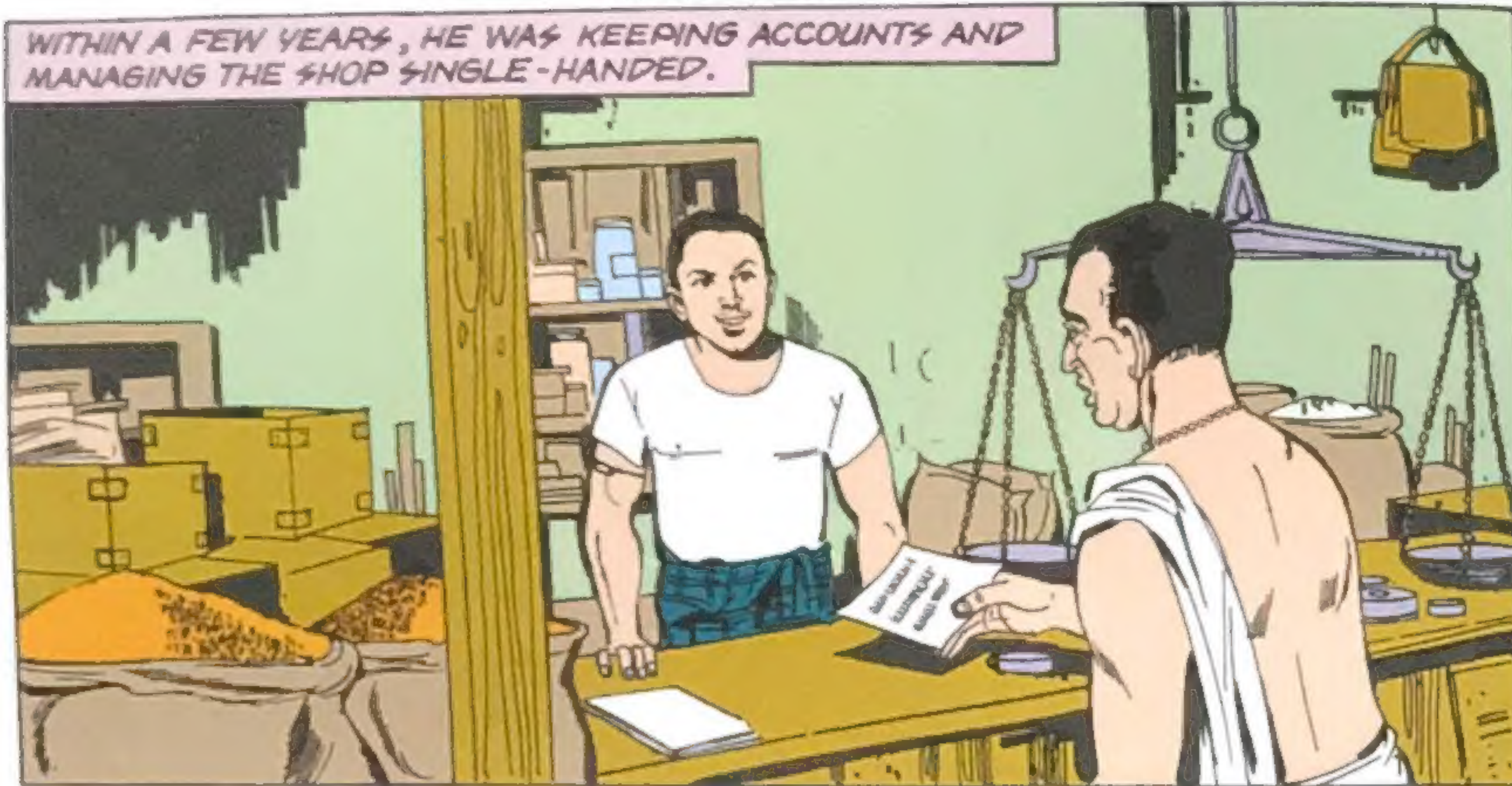
HMM! THAT MEANS WE DON'T EAT TODAY.

WHAT A LIFE!





WITHIN A FEW YEARS, HE WAS KEEPING ACCOUNTS AND MANAGING THE SHOP SINGLE-HANDED.



THE SUGAR STOCKS ARE ALMOST SOLD OUT. THE RATES ARE GOOD NOW. SHALL I ORDER A FRESH CONSIGNMENT?

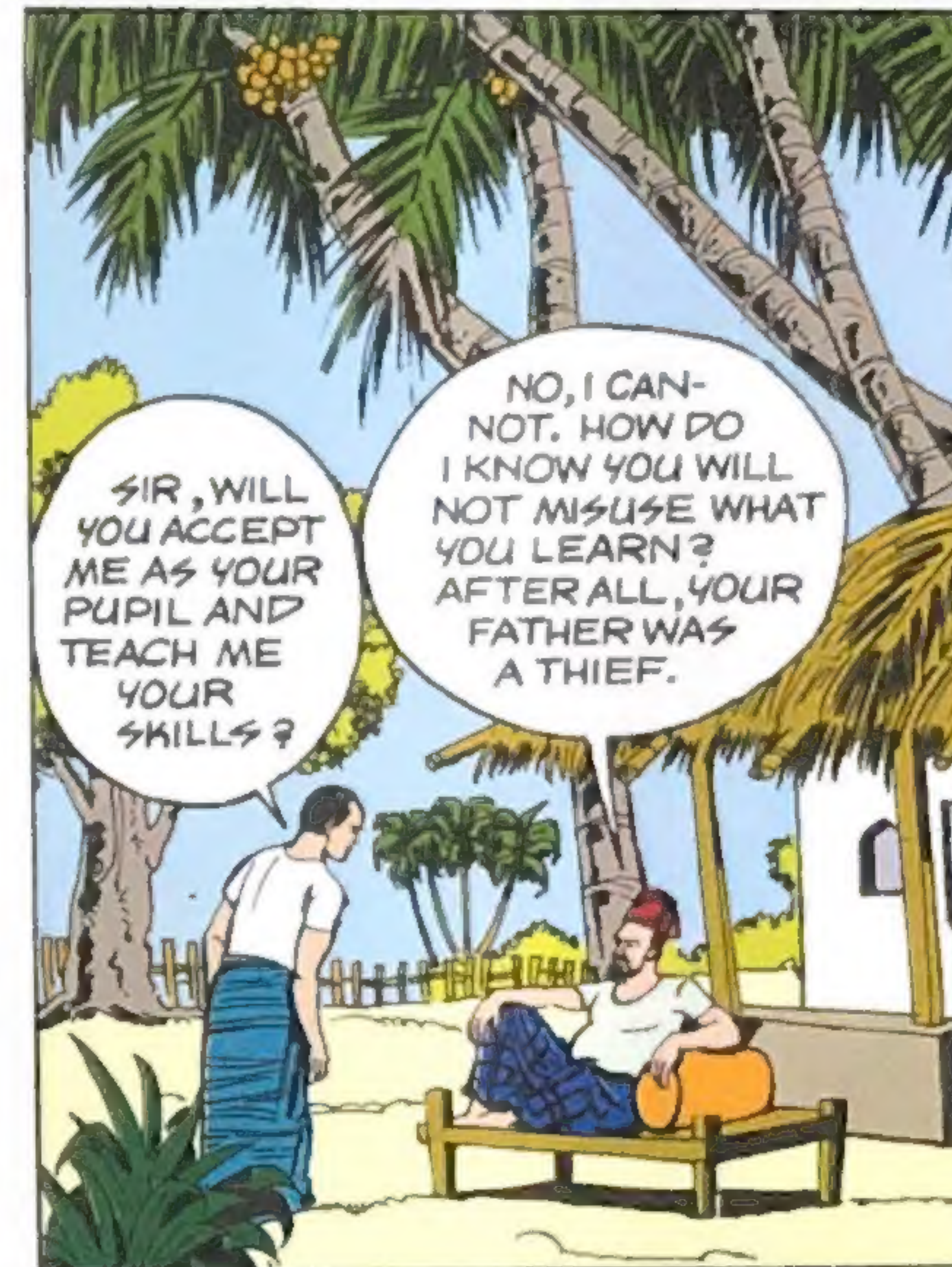
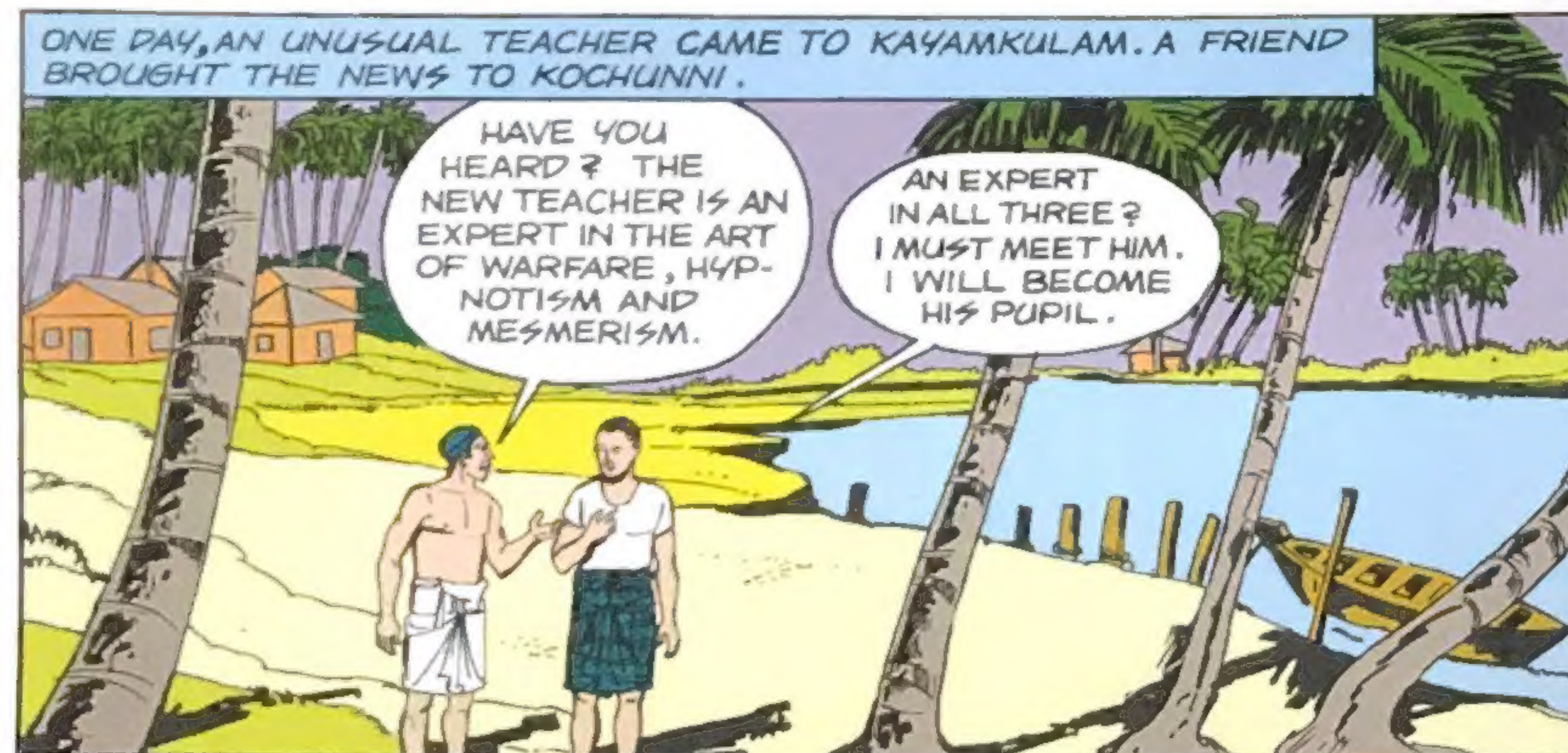
I LEAVE IT TO YOU, MY BOY. YOU KNOW BEST.



ONE DAY, AN UNUSUAL TEACHER CAME TO KAYAMKULAM. A FRIEND BROUGHT THE NEWS TO KOCHUNNI.

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE NEW TEACHER IS AN EXPERT IN THE ART OF WARFARE, HYPNOTISM AND MESMERISM.

AN EXPERT IN ALL THREE? I MUST MEET HIM. I WILL BECOME HIS PUPIL.



SIR, WILL YOU ACCEPT ME AS YOUR PUPIL AND TEACH ME YOUR SKILLS?

NO, I CANNOT. HOW DO I KNOW YOU WILL NOT MISUSE WHAT YOU LEARN? AFTER ALL, YOUR FATHER WAS A THIEF.

IS THAT ANY REASON TO SUSPECT ME? NEVER MIND. HE MAY NOT ACCEPT ME AS HIS PUPIL. BUT HE CANNOT PREVENT ME FROM LEARNING WHAT HE HAS TO TEACH.

THAT NIGHT, AS THE TEACHER BEGAN HIS LESSONS, KOCHUNNI PERCHED HIMSELF ON THE BRANCHES OF A TREE.

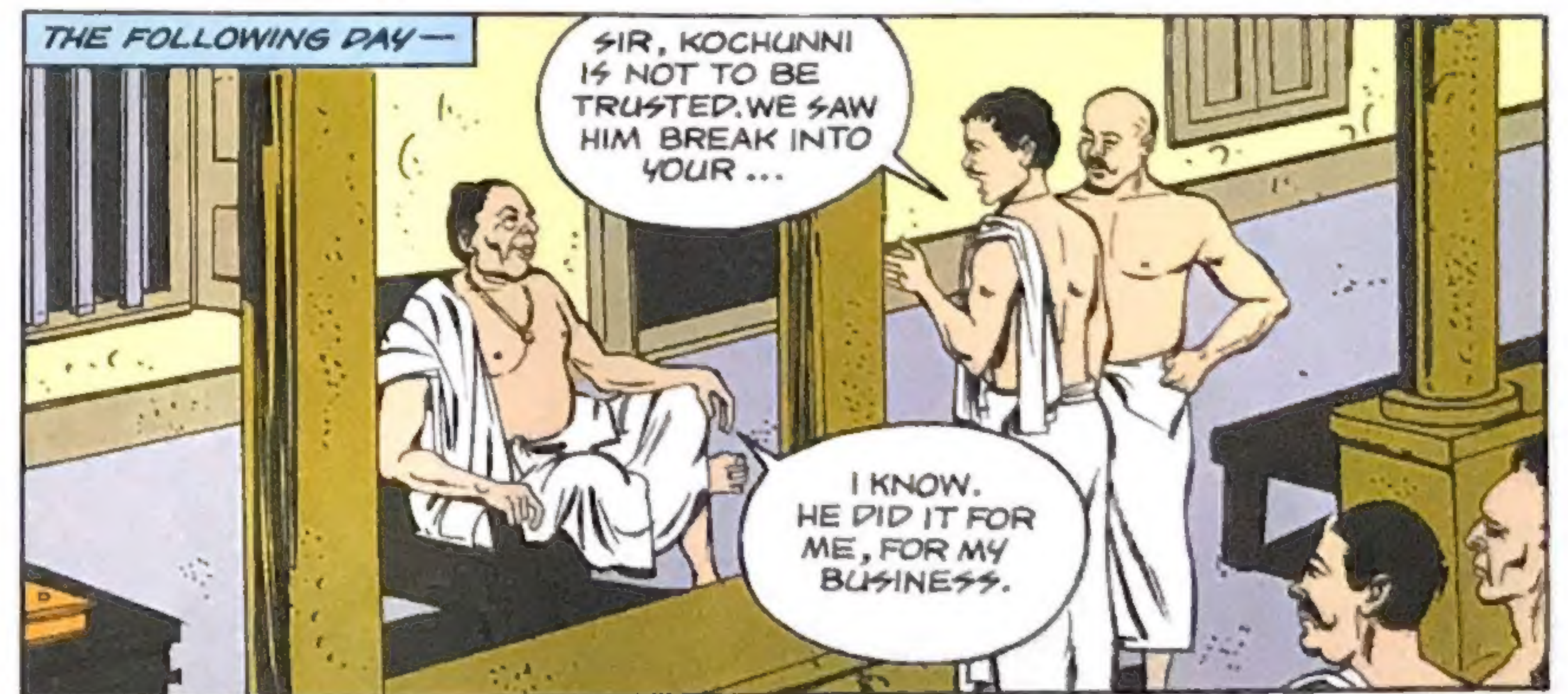
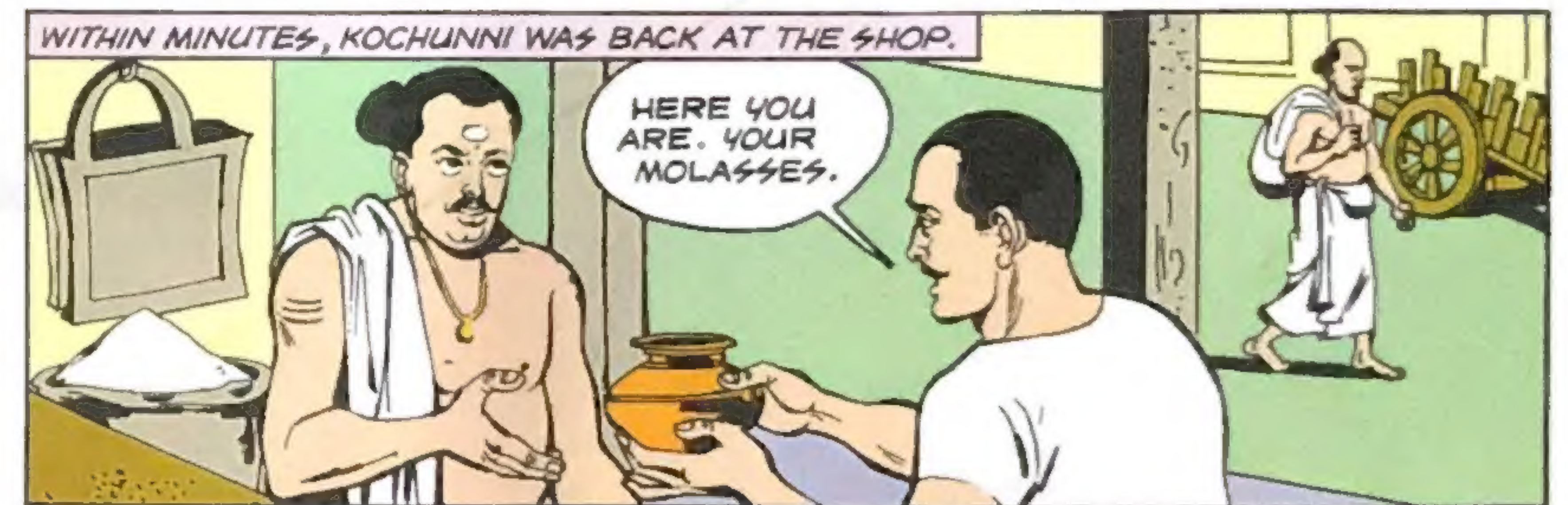
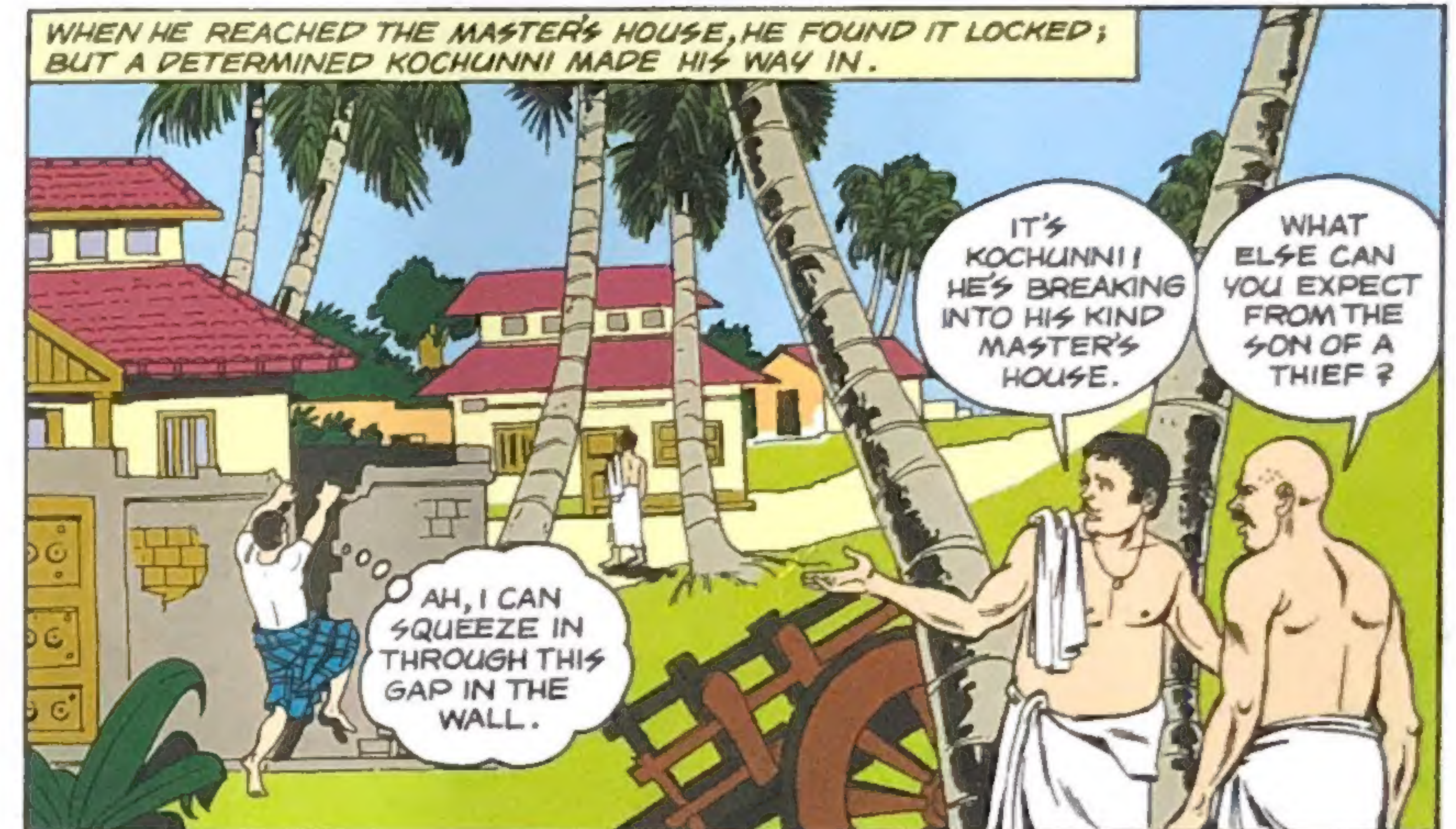


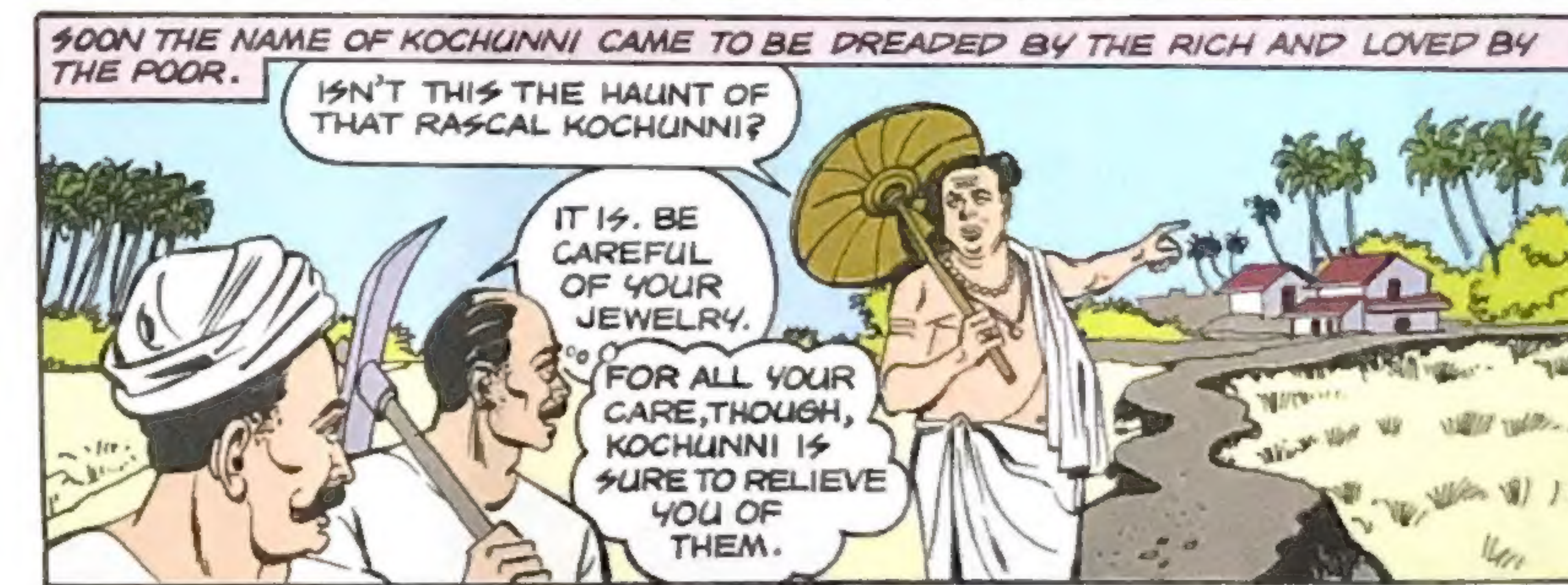
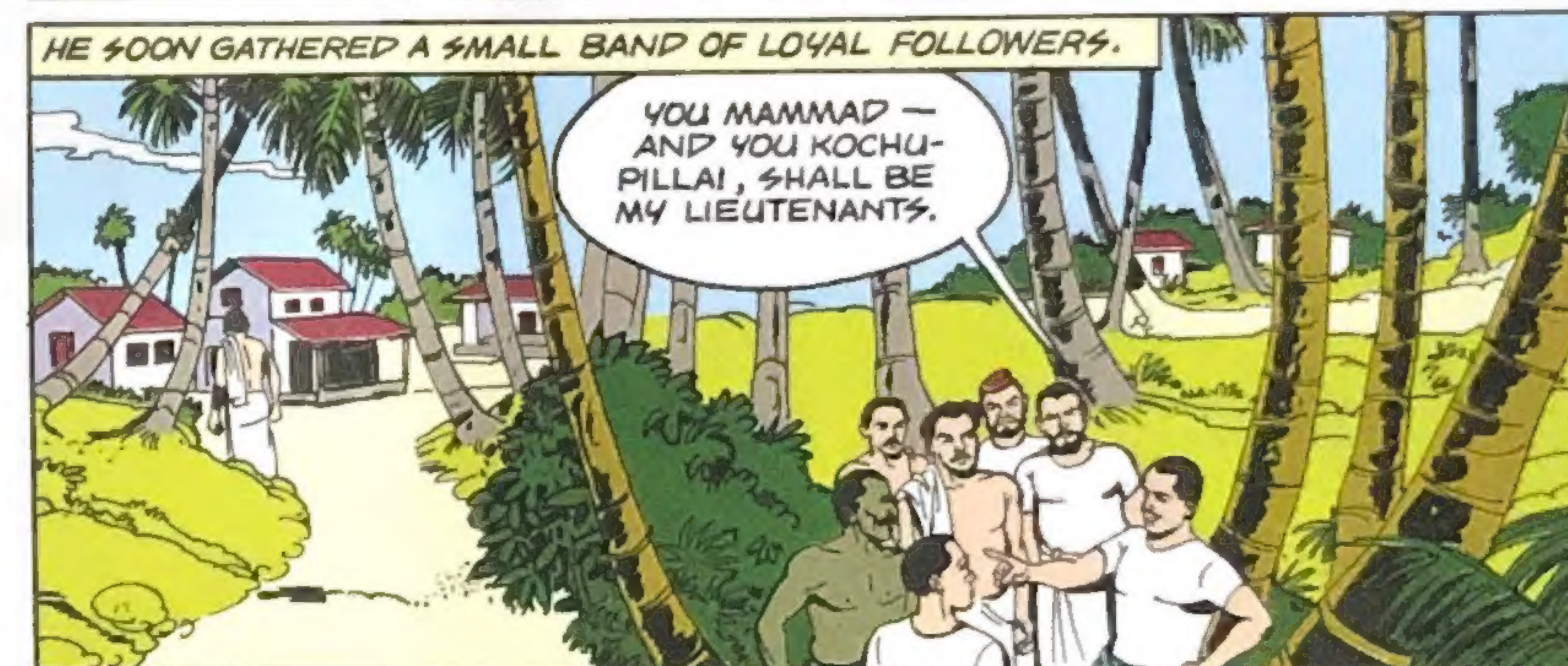
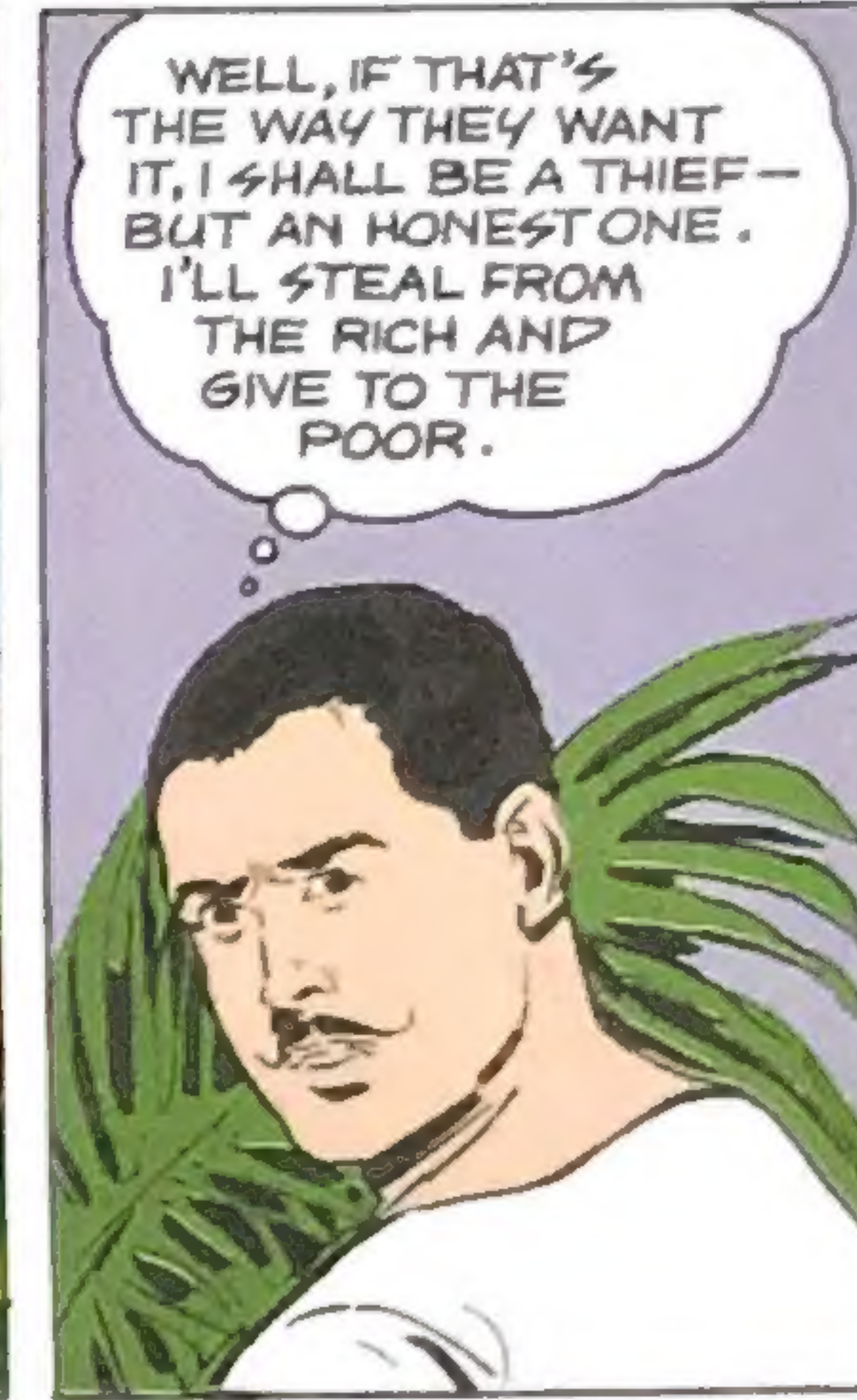
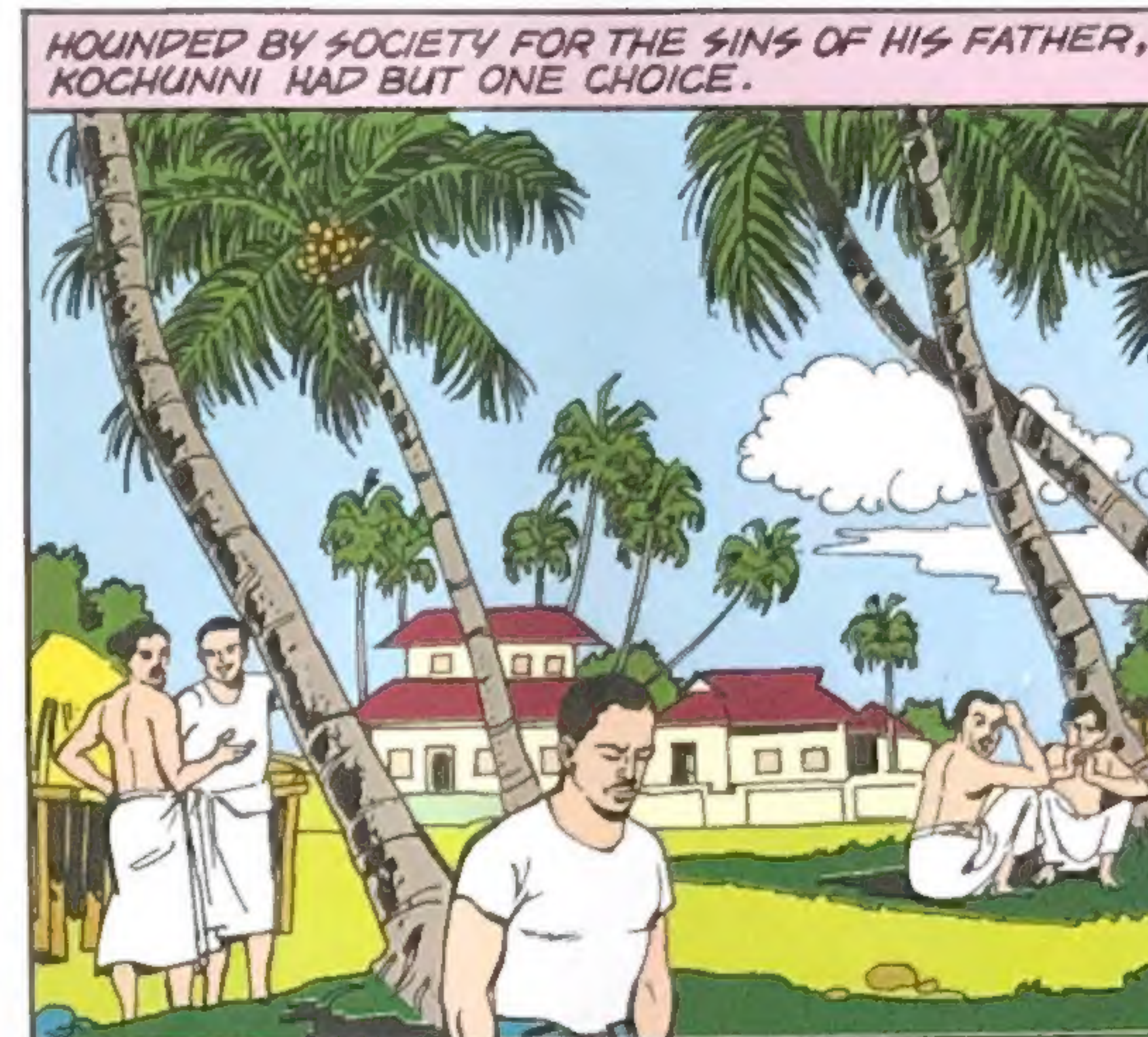
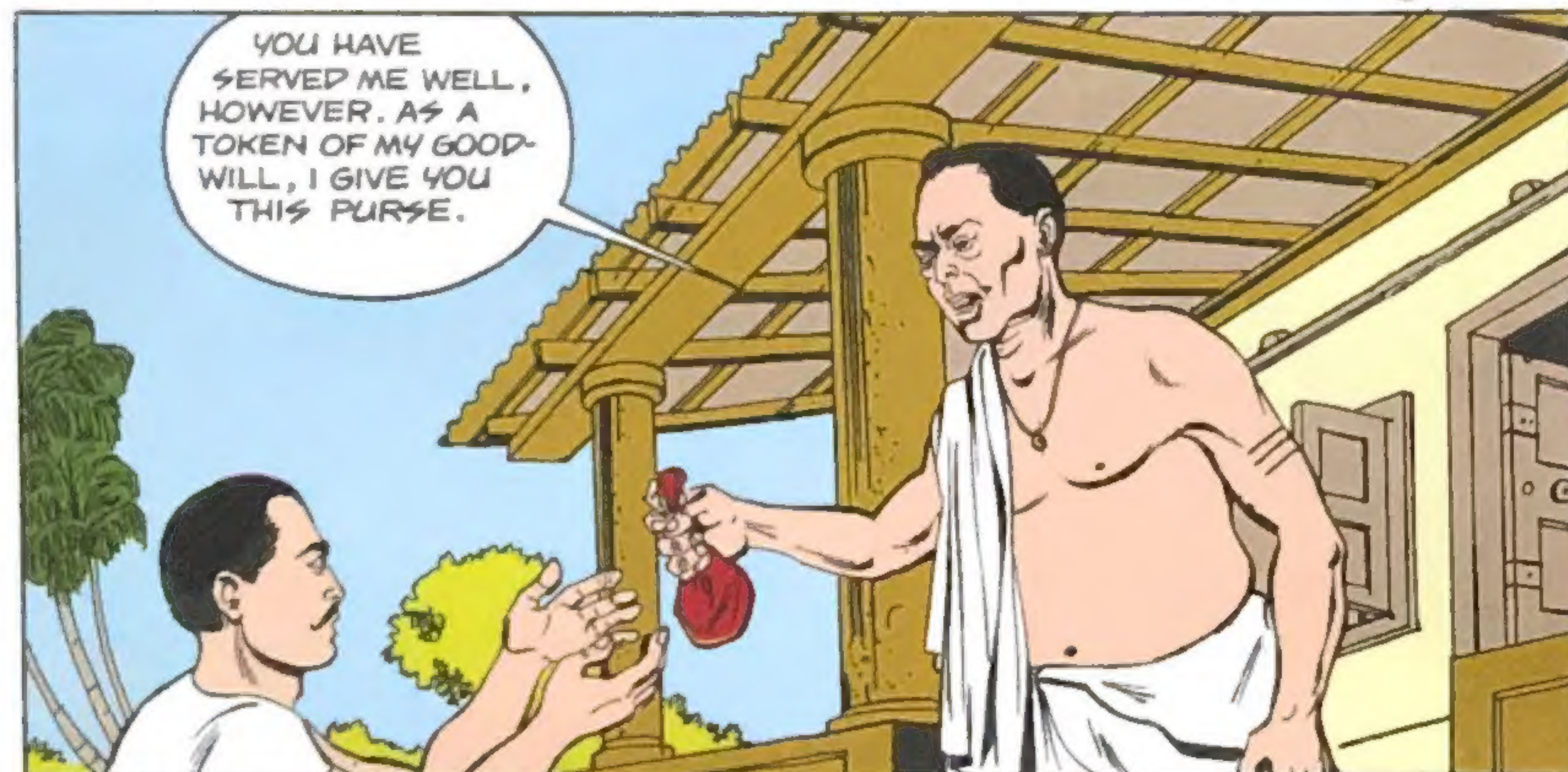
A FEW DAYS LATER—

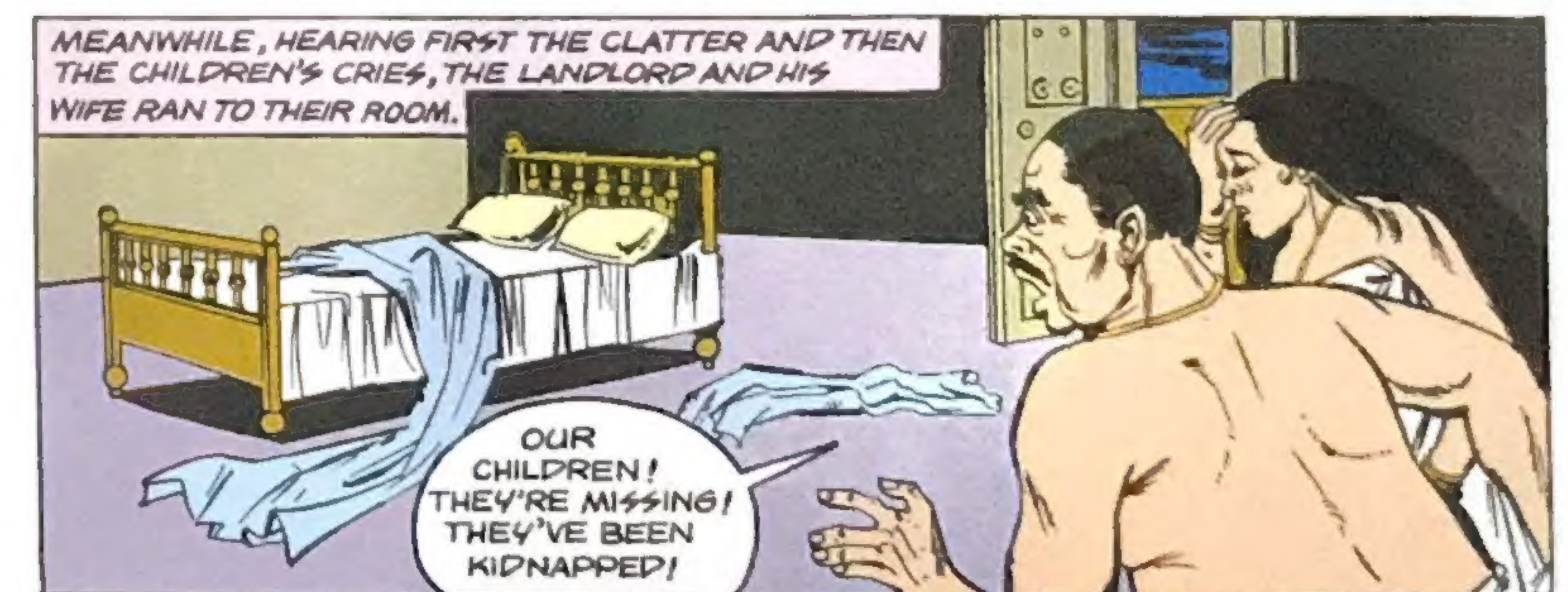


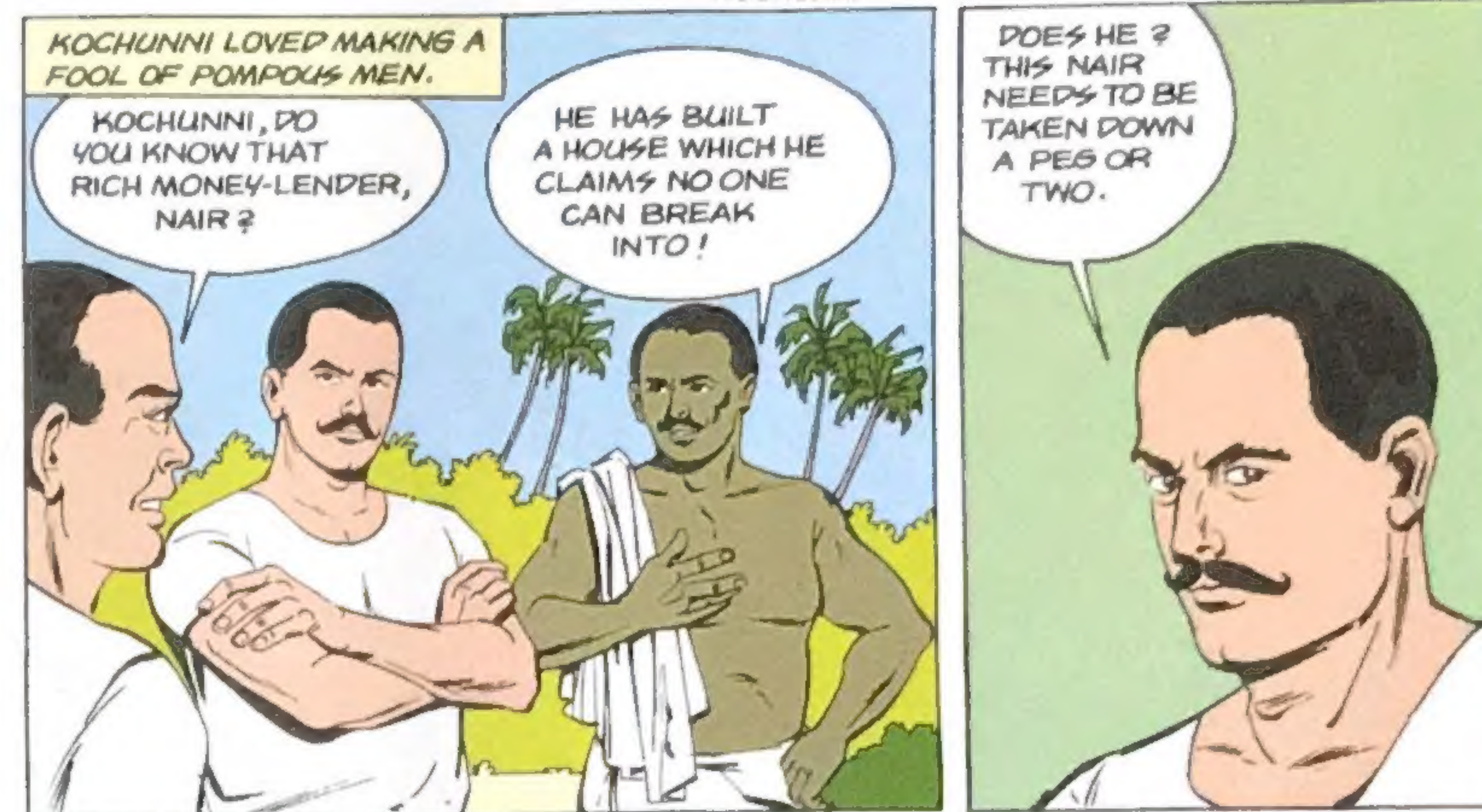
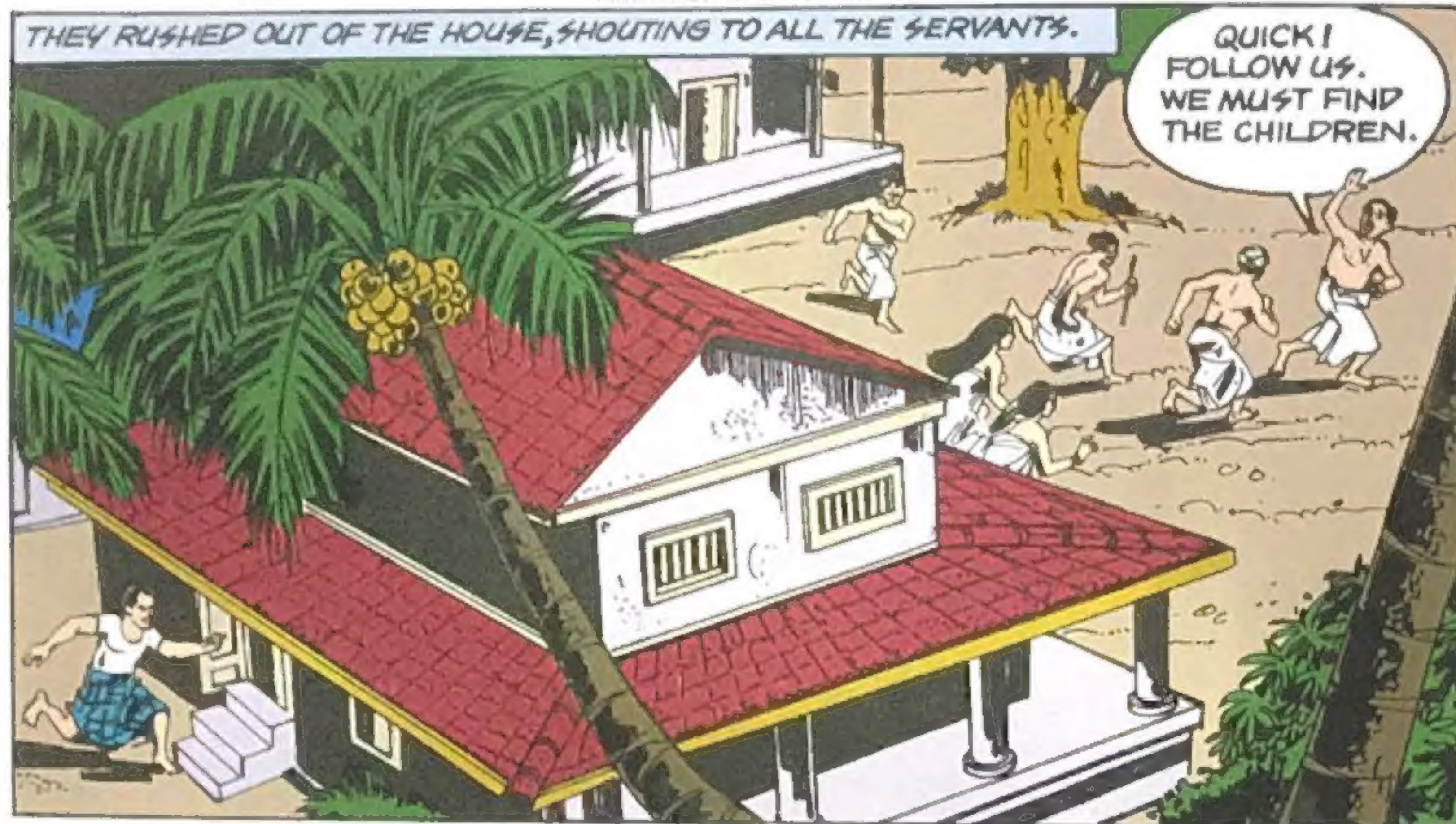
SIR, KOCHUNNI WATCHES US SECRETLY EVERY NIGHT.

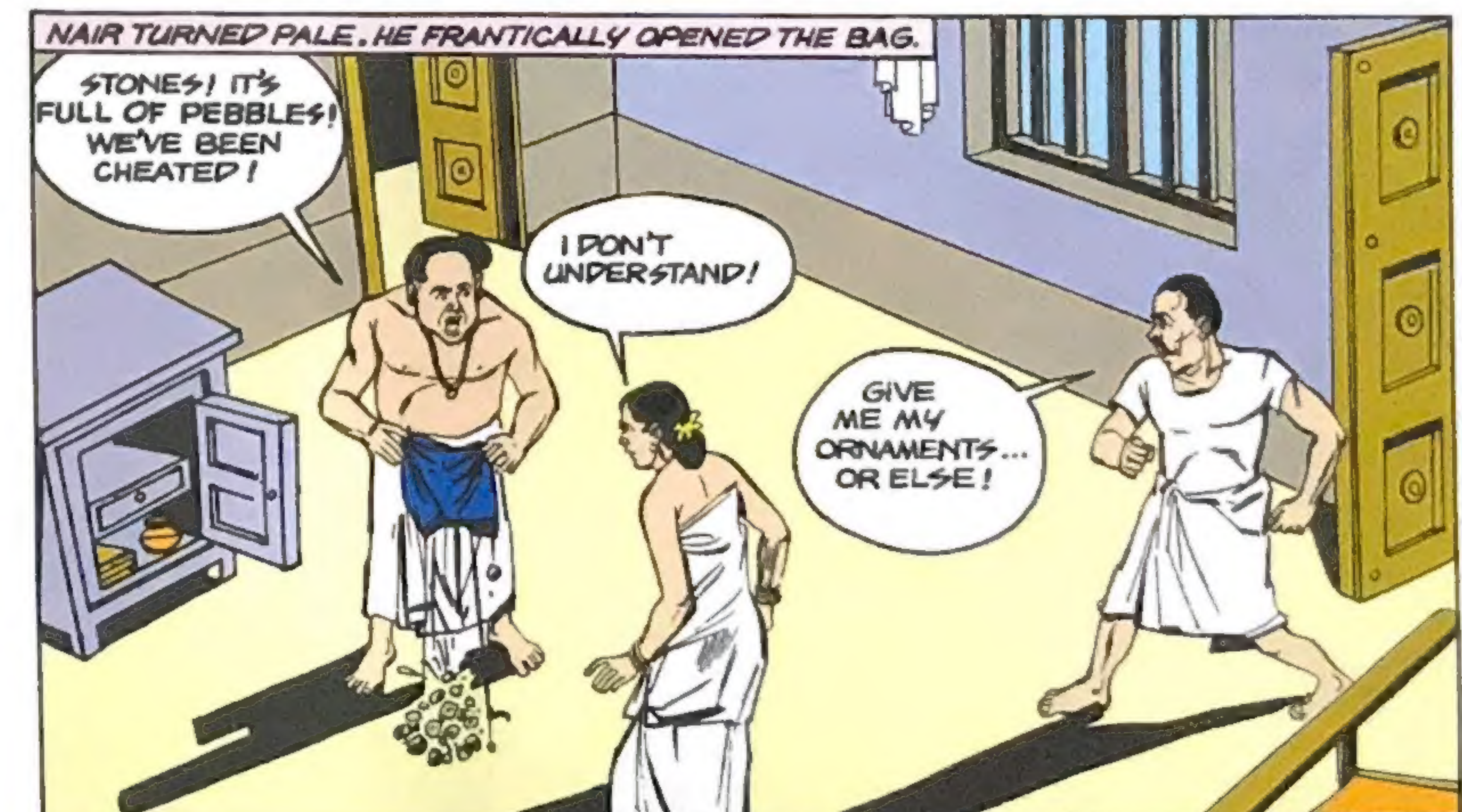
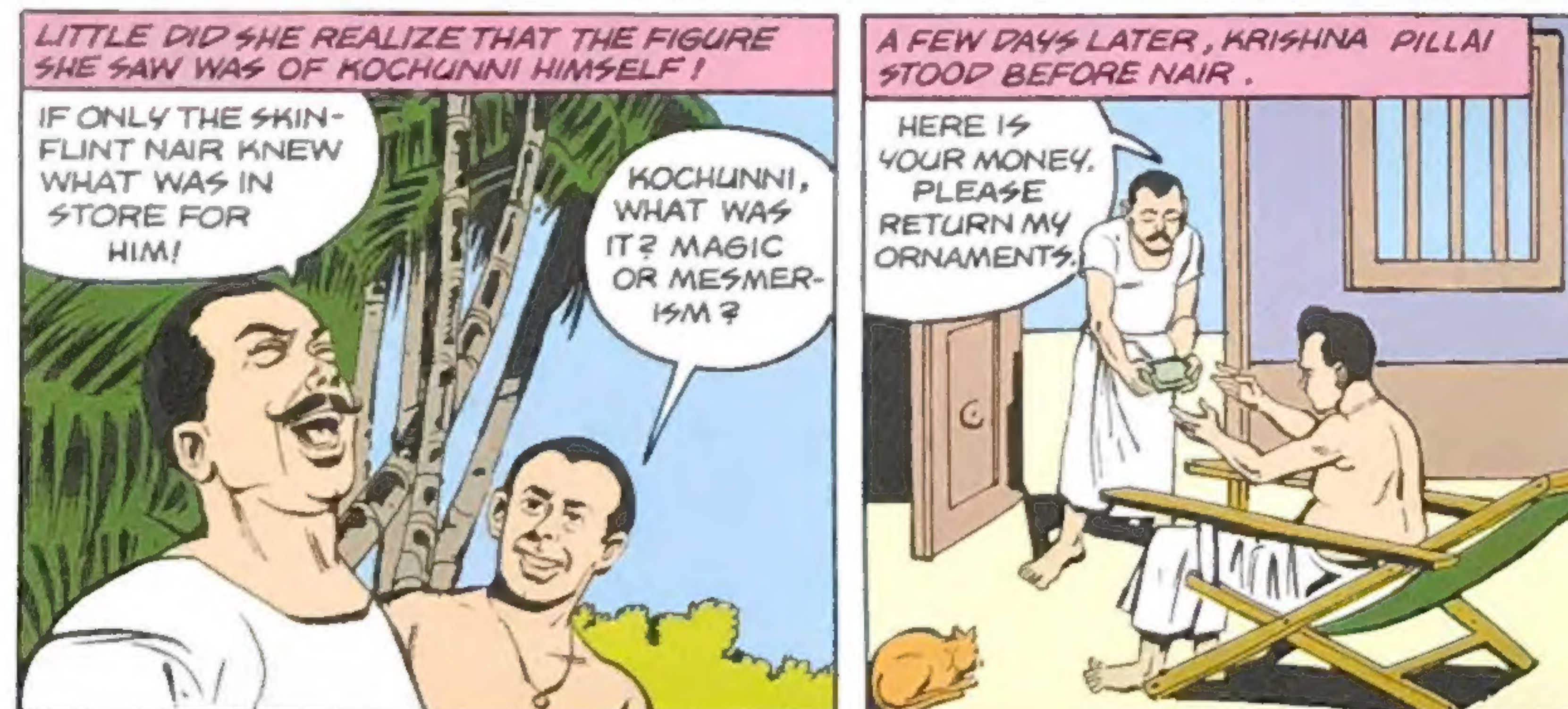
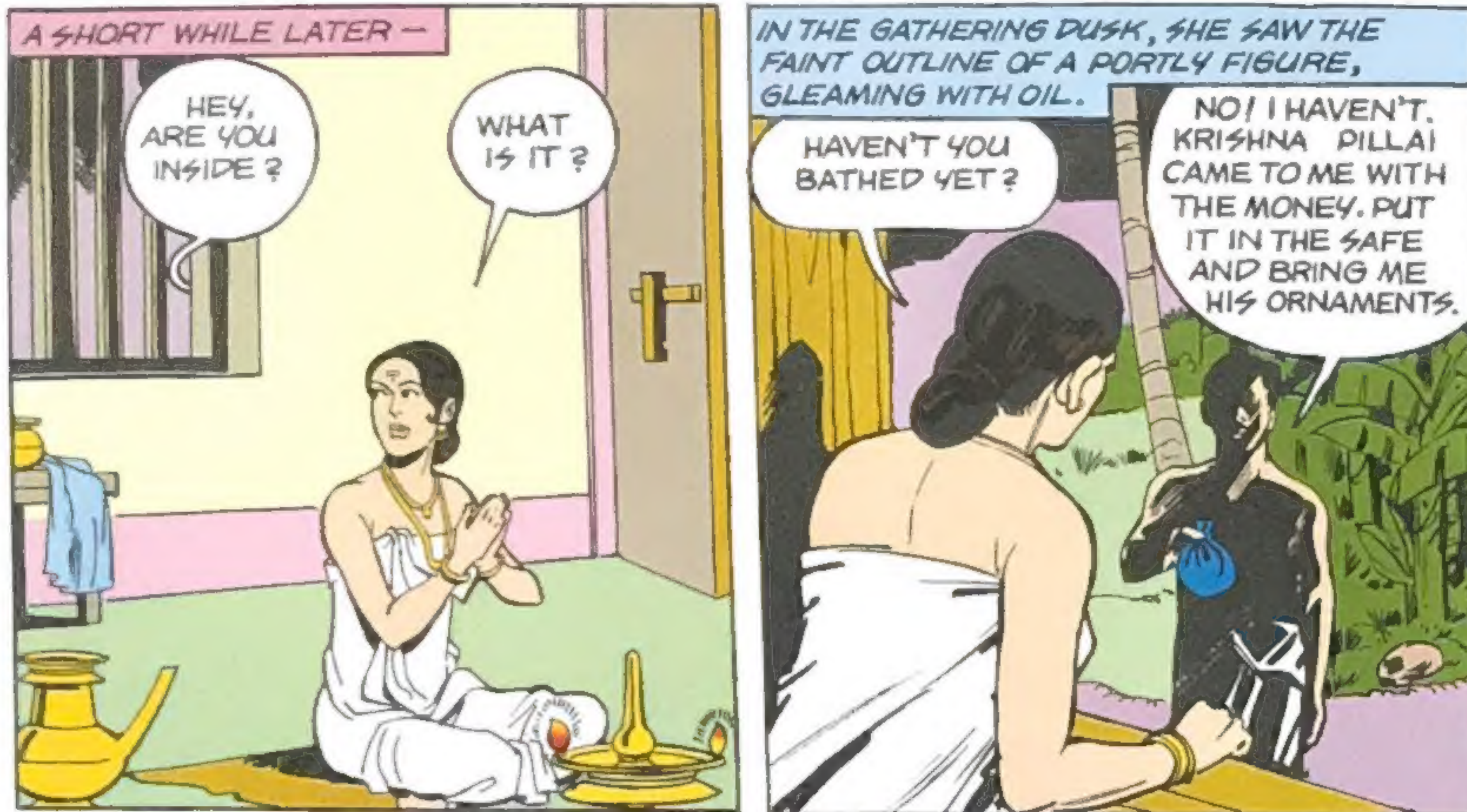
INDEED?

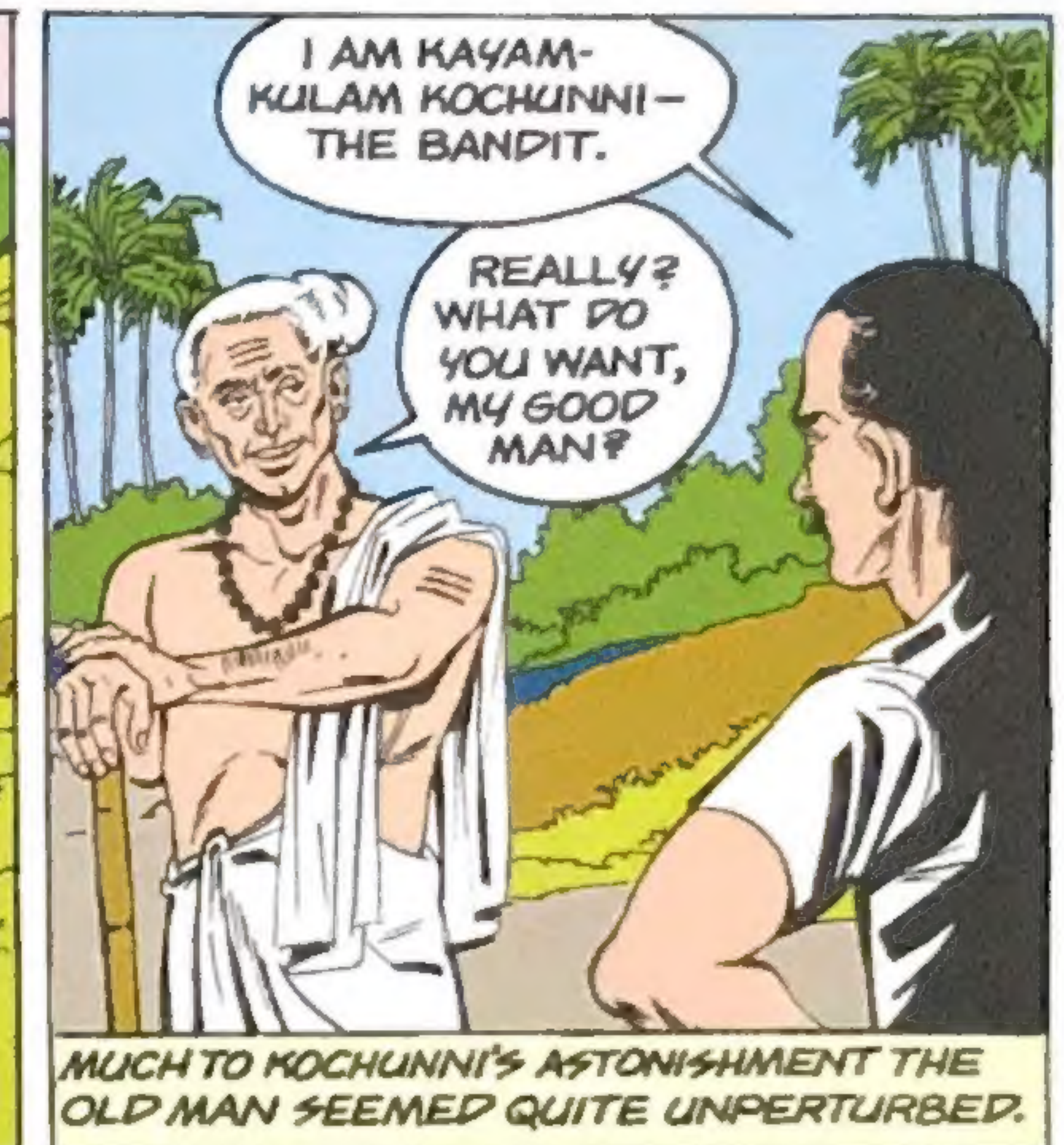
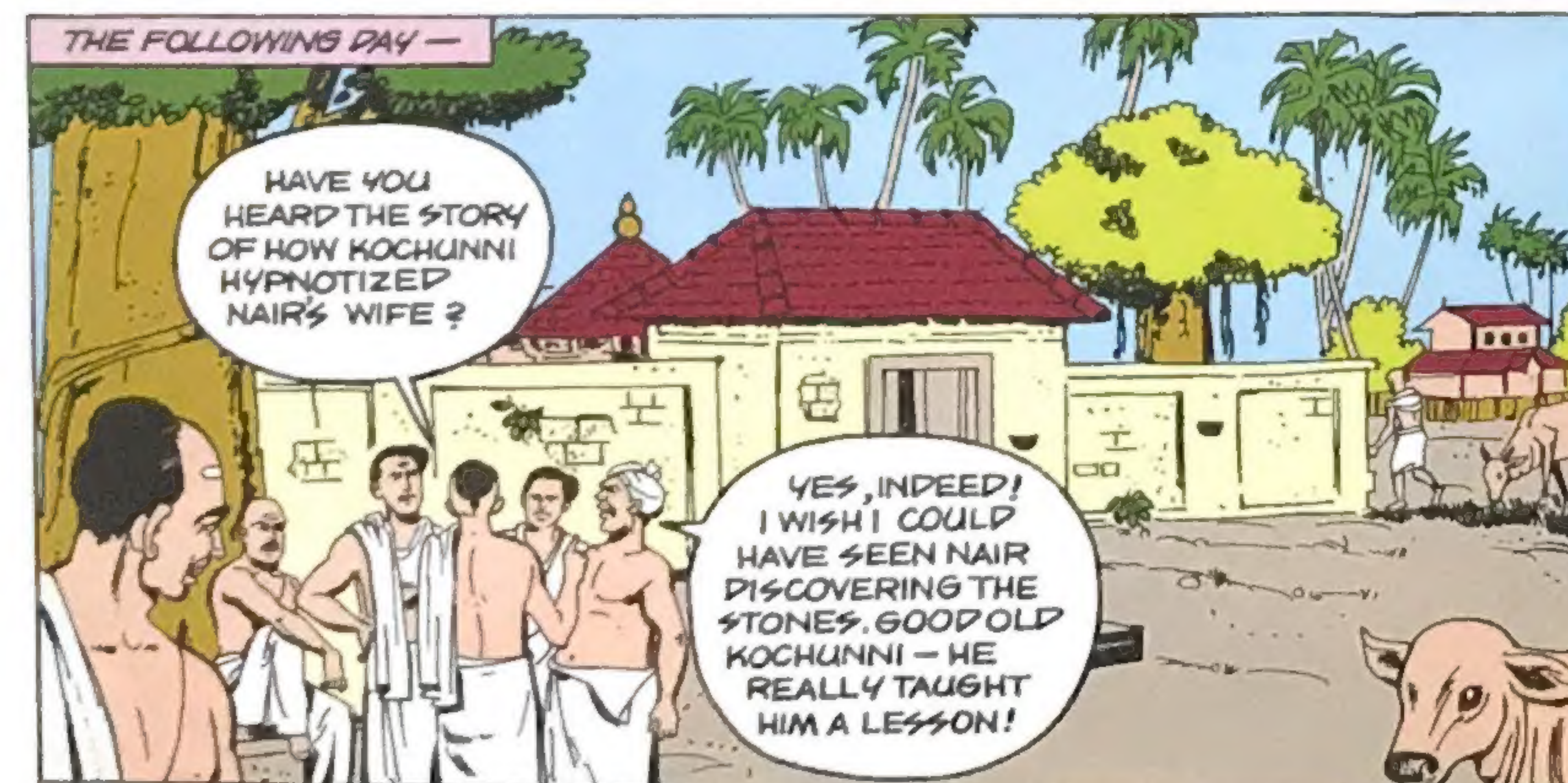




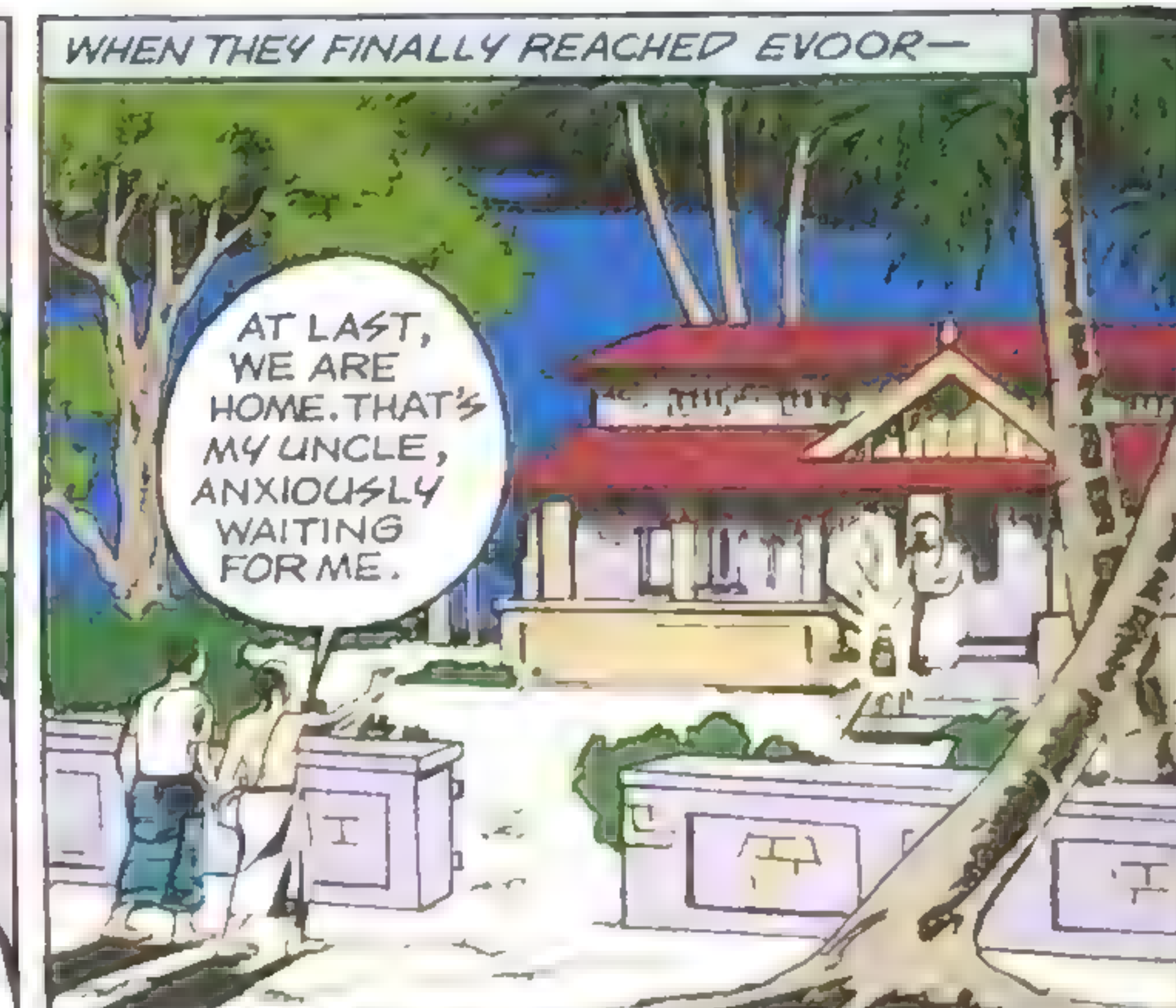
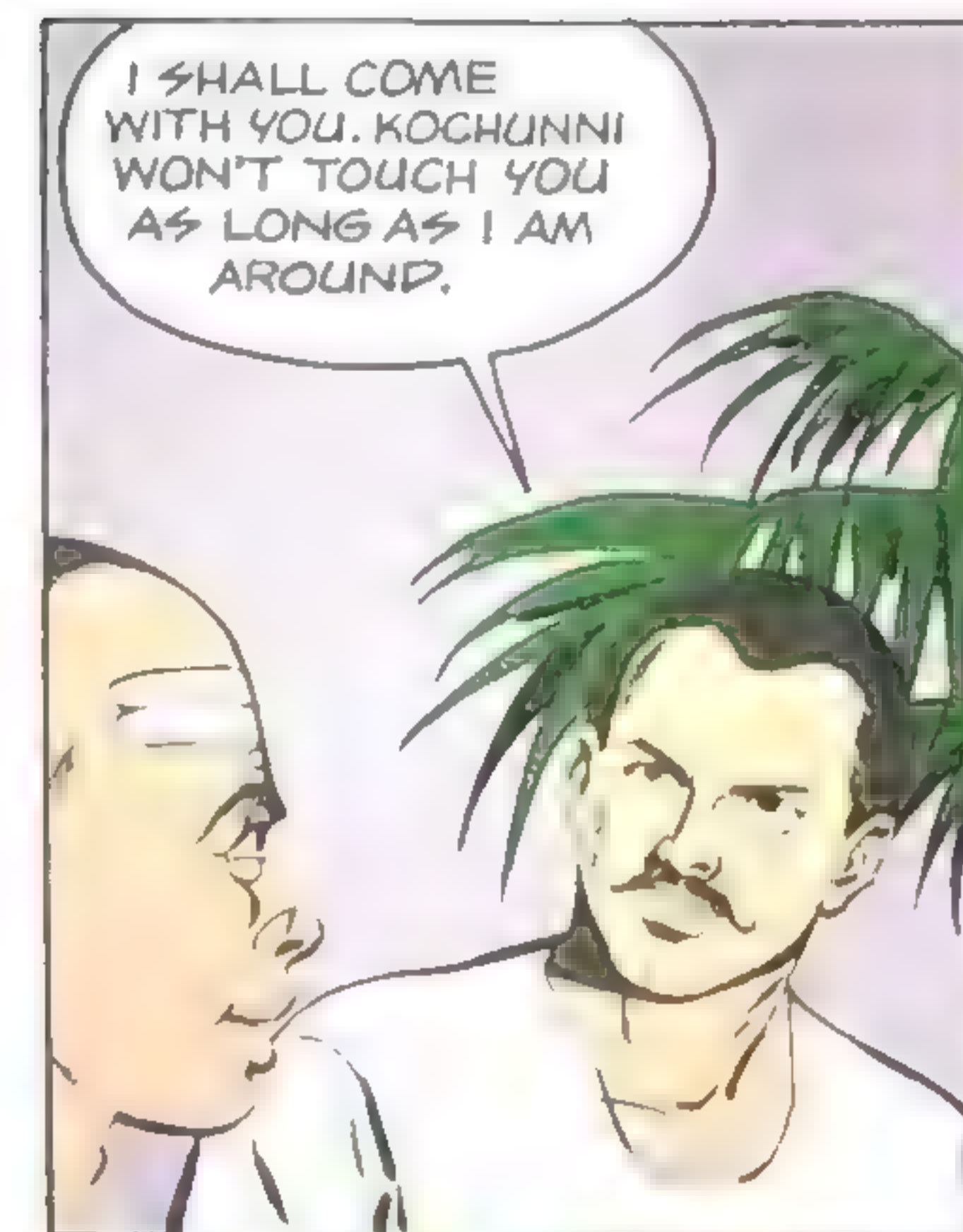
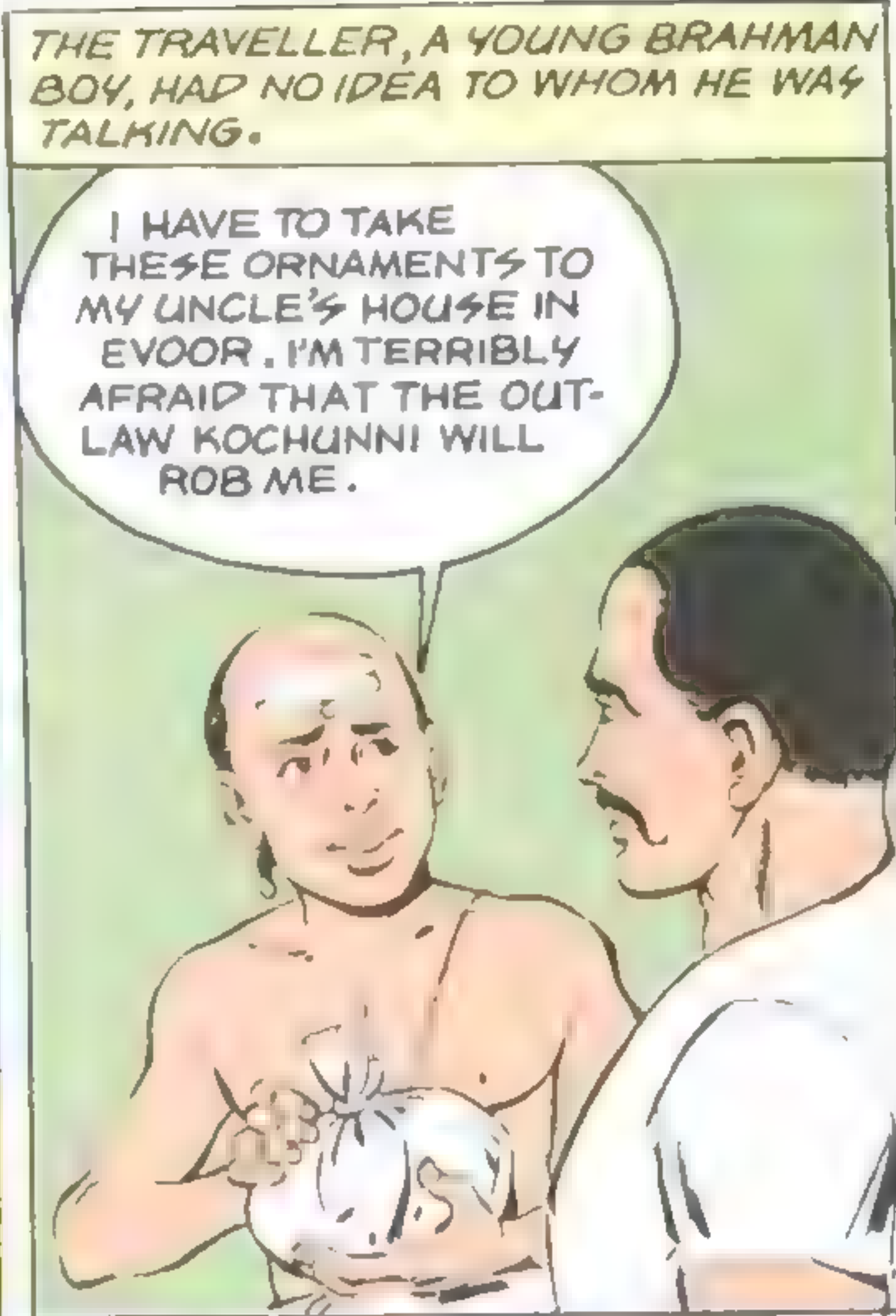
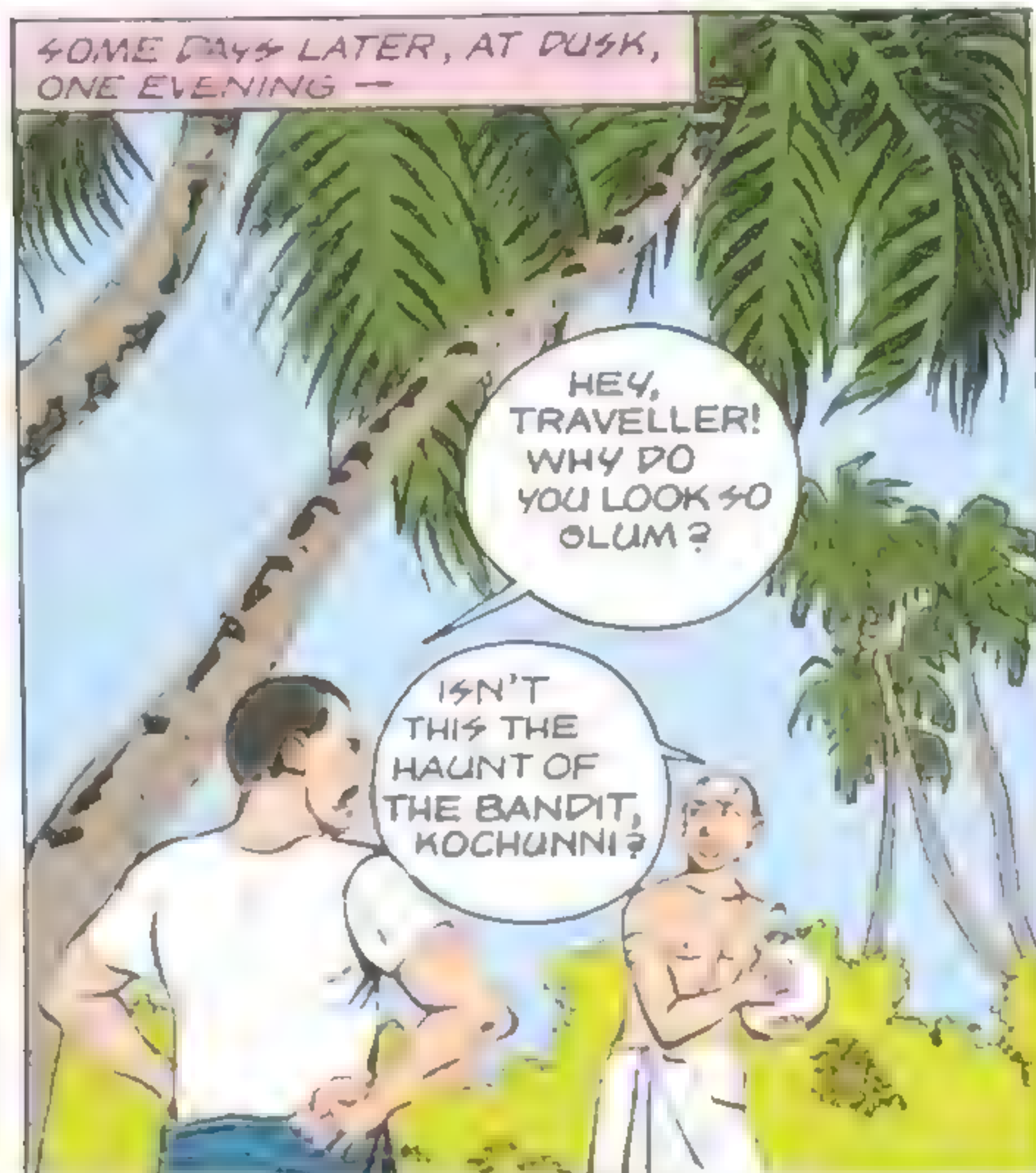


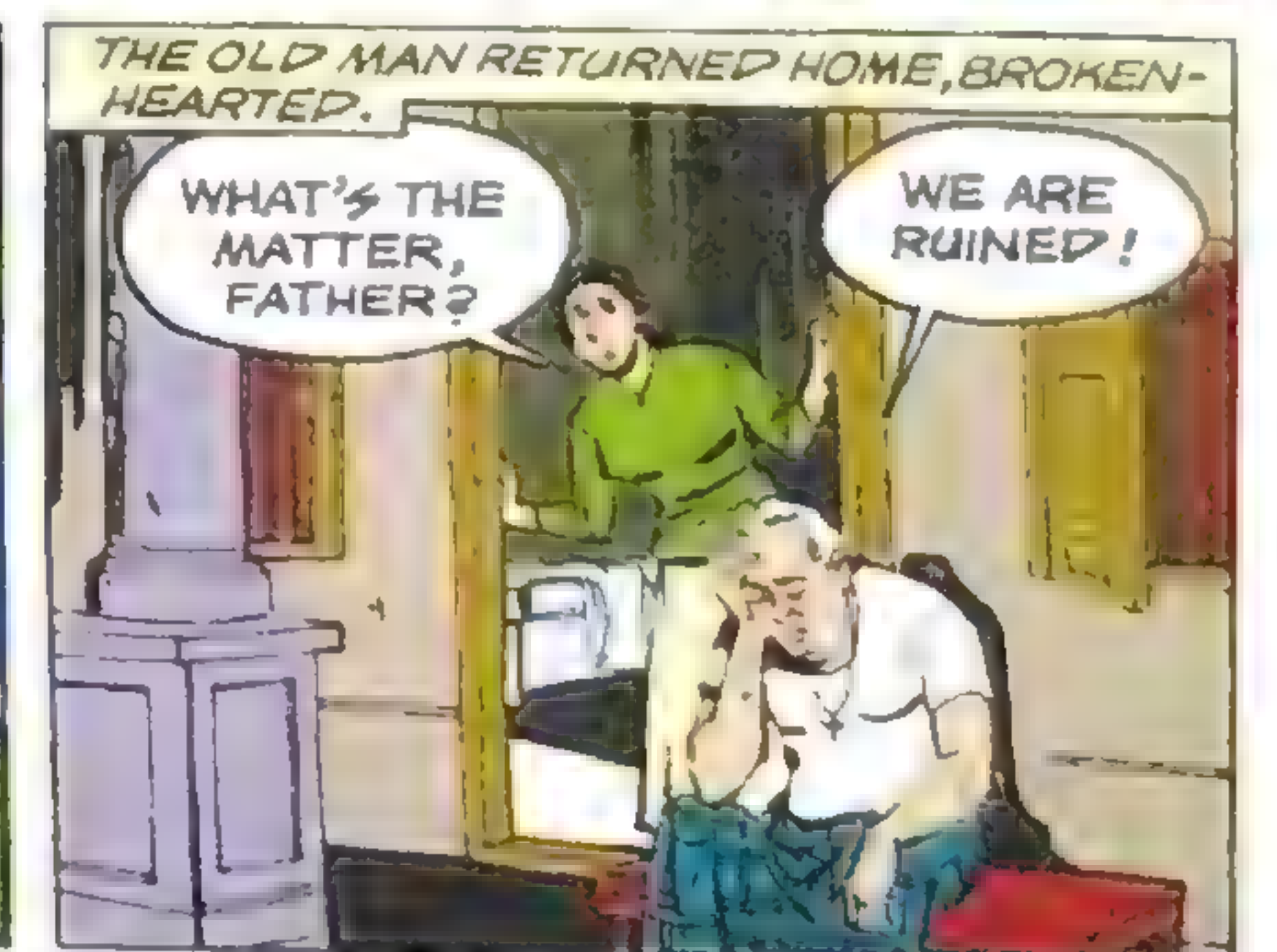
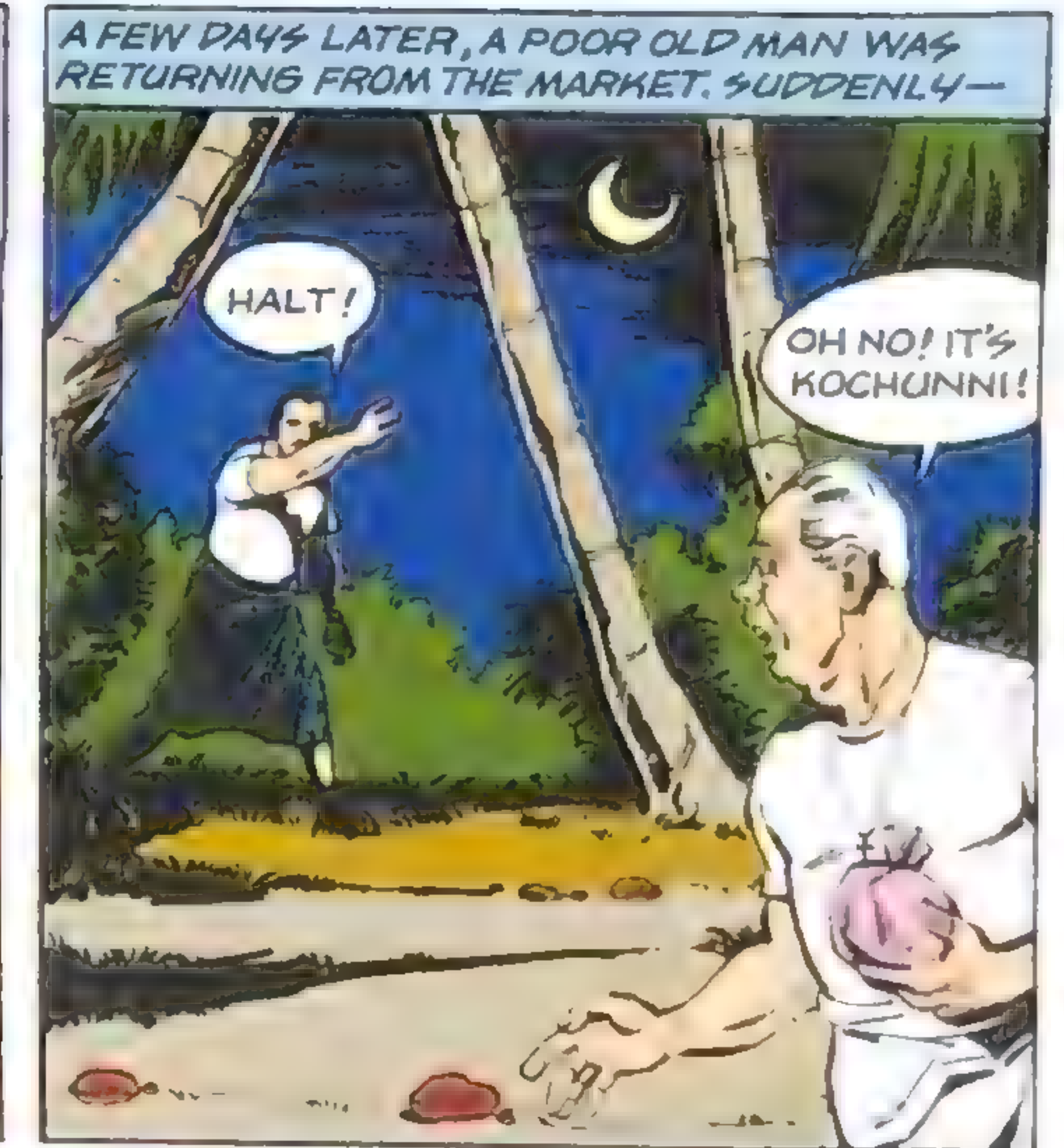
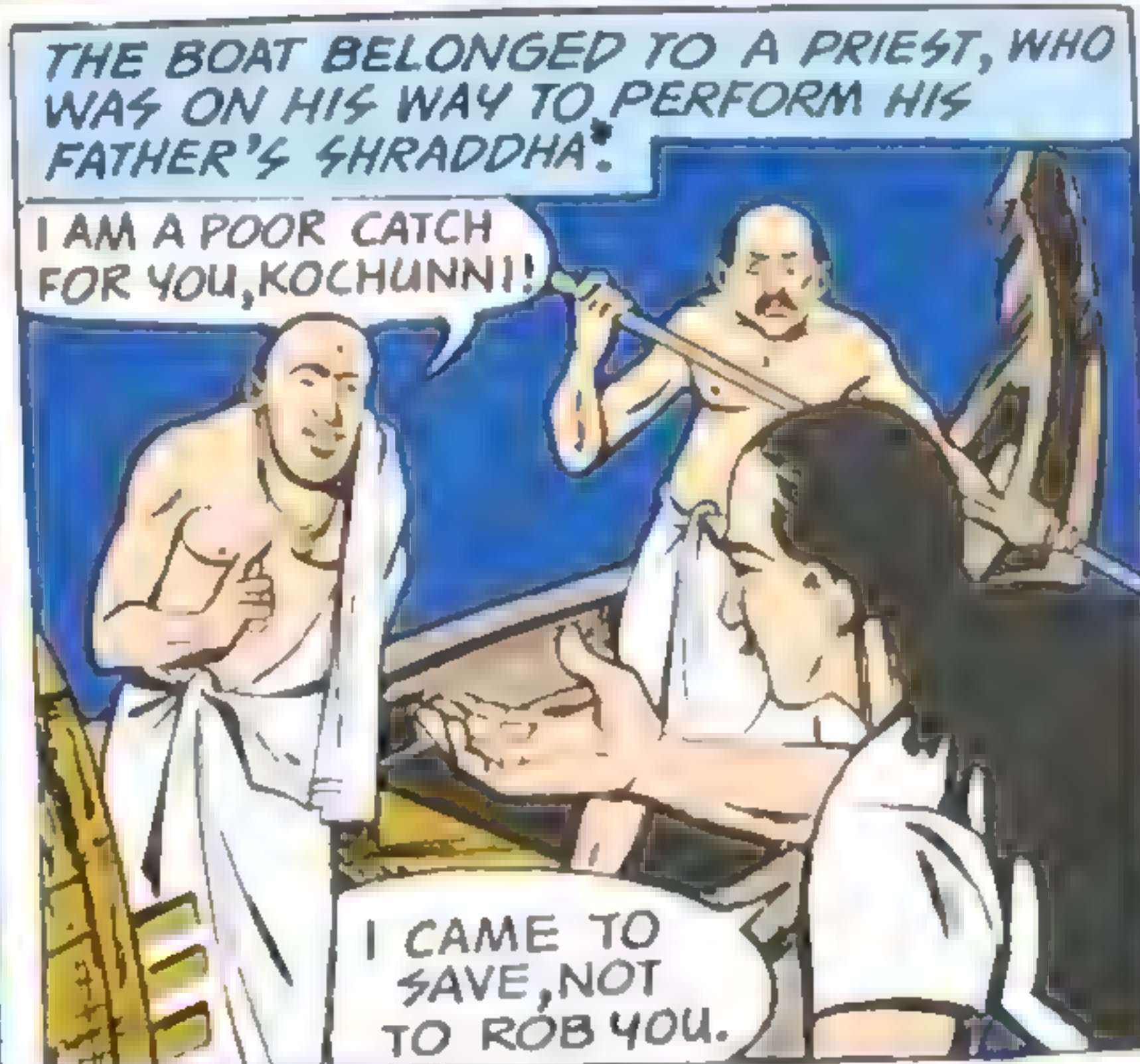
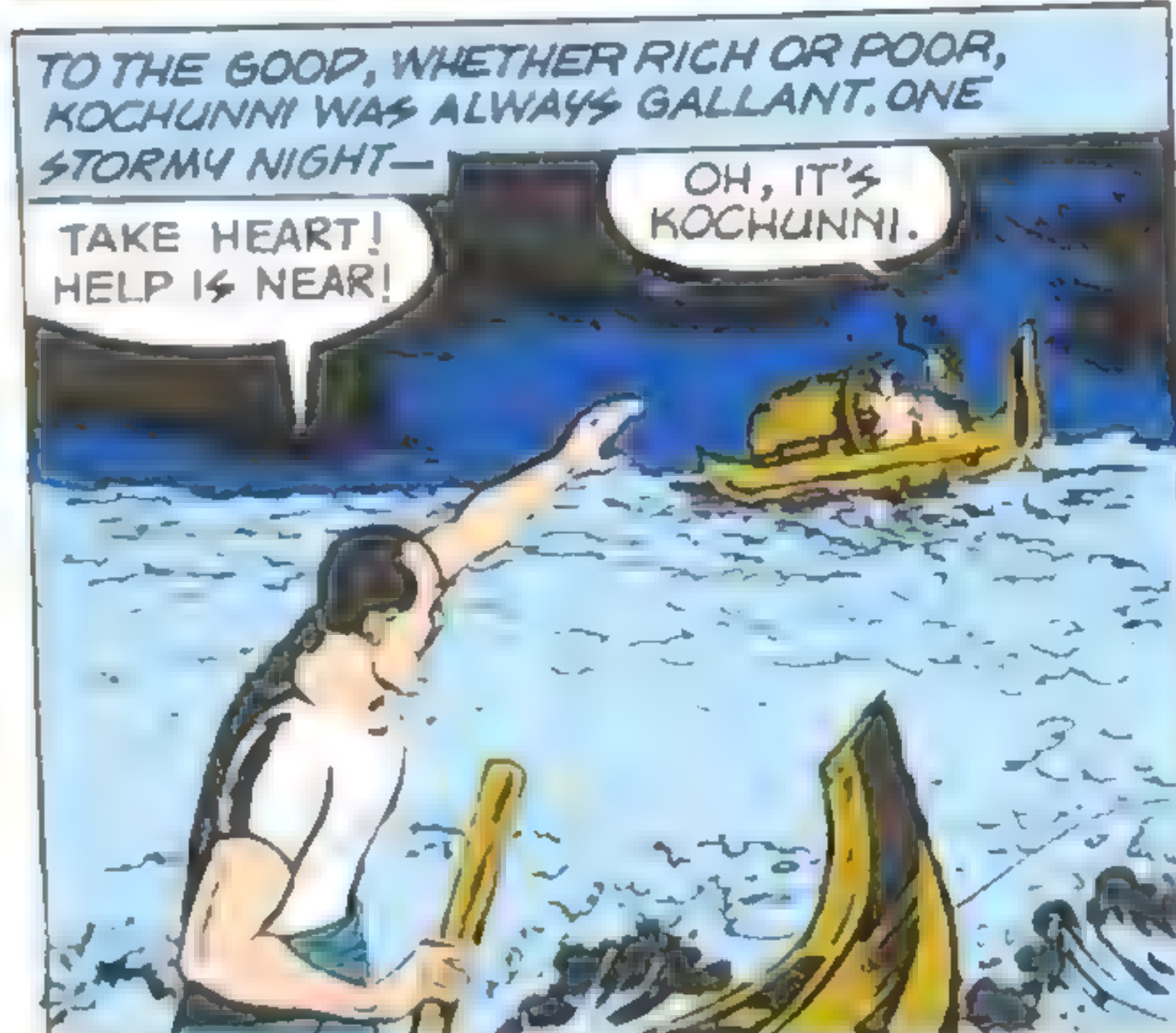
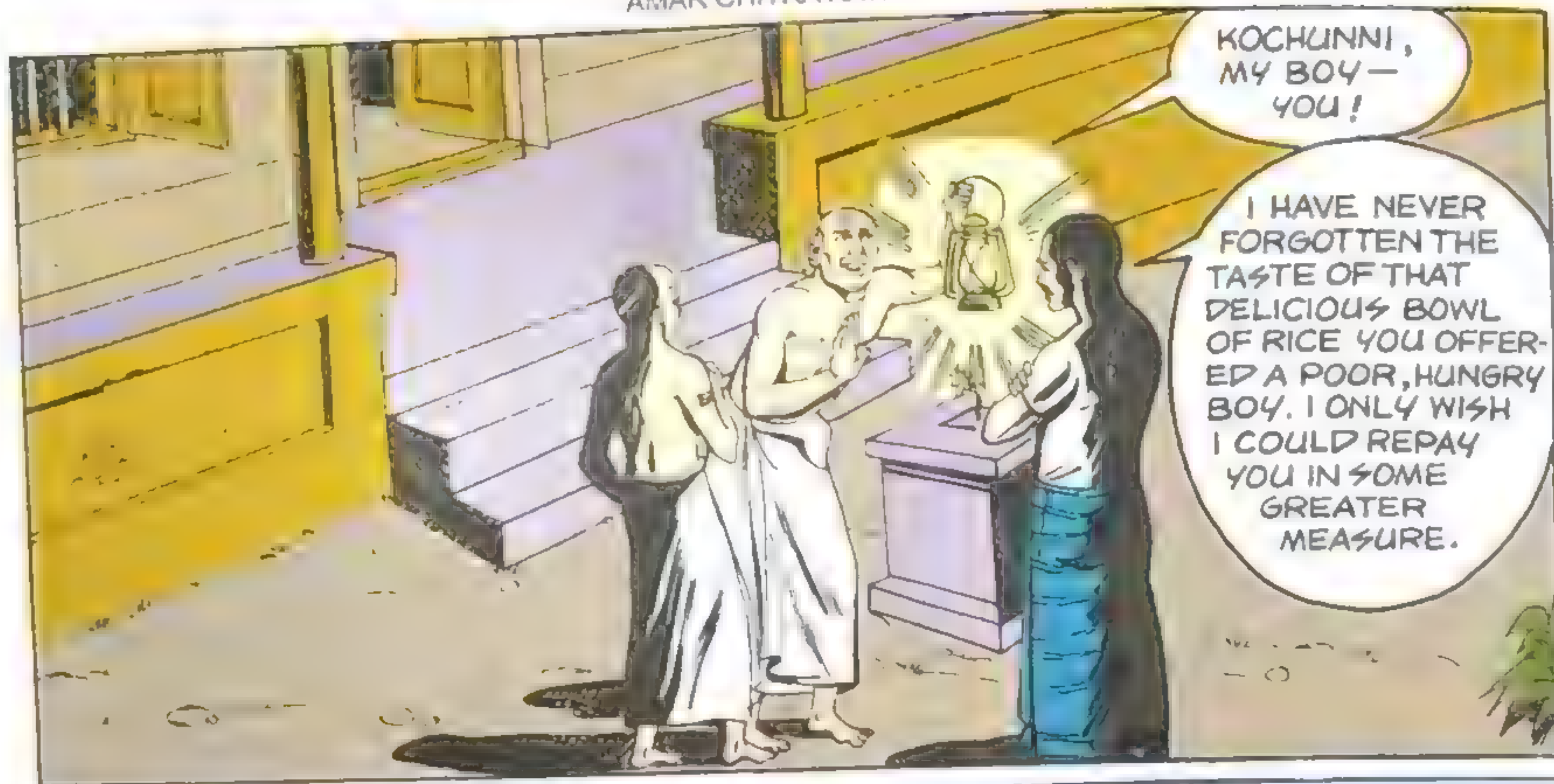


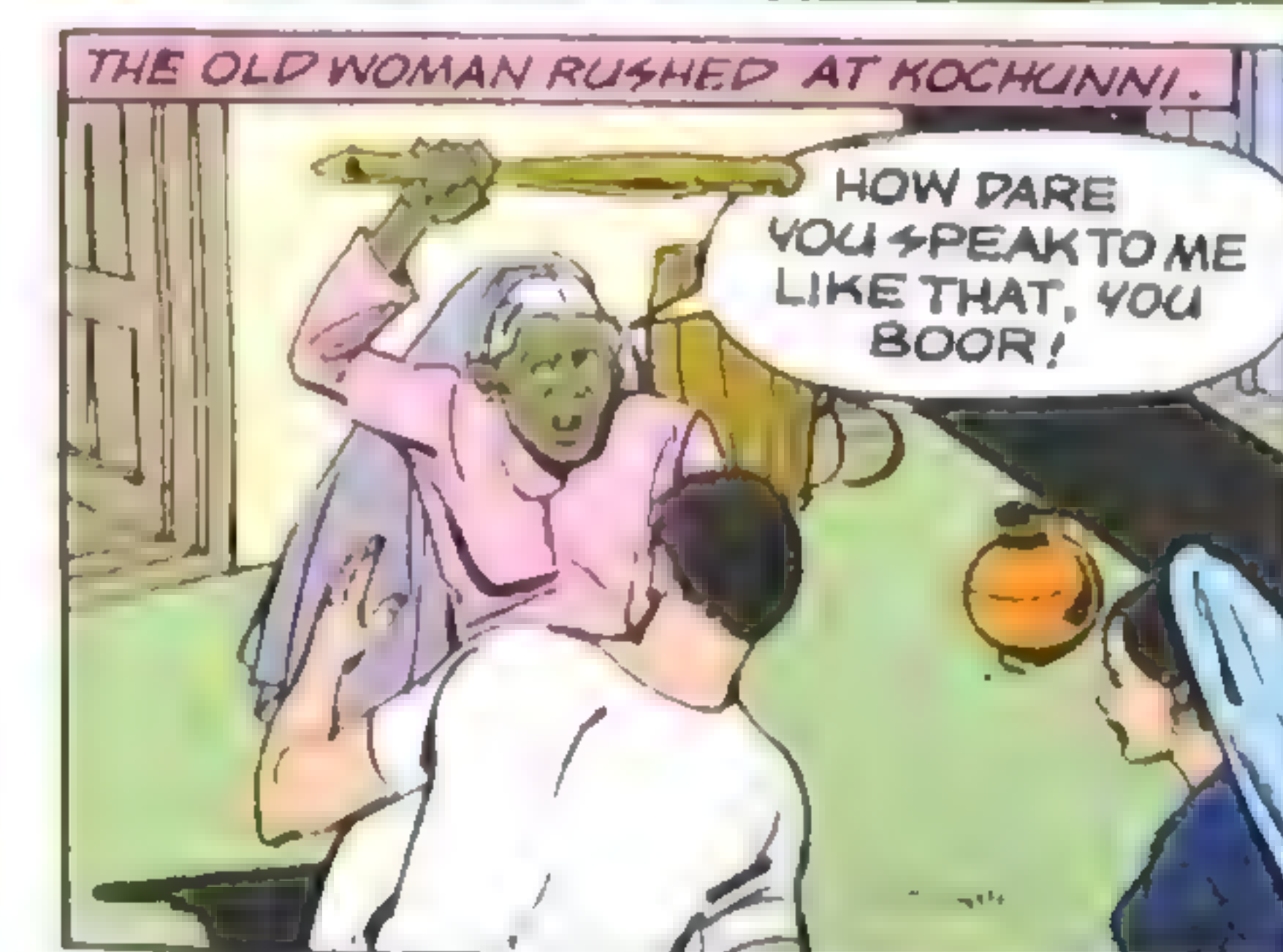
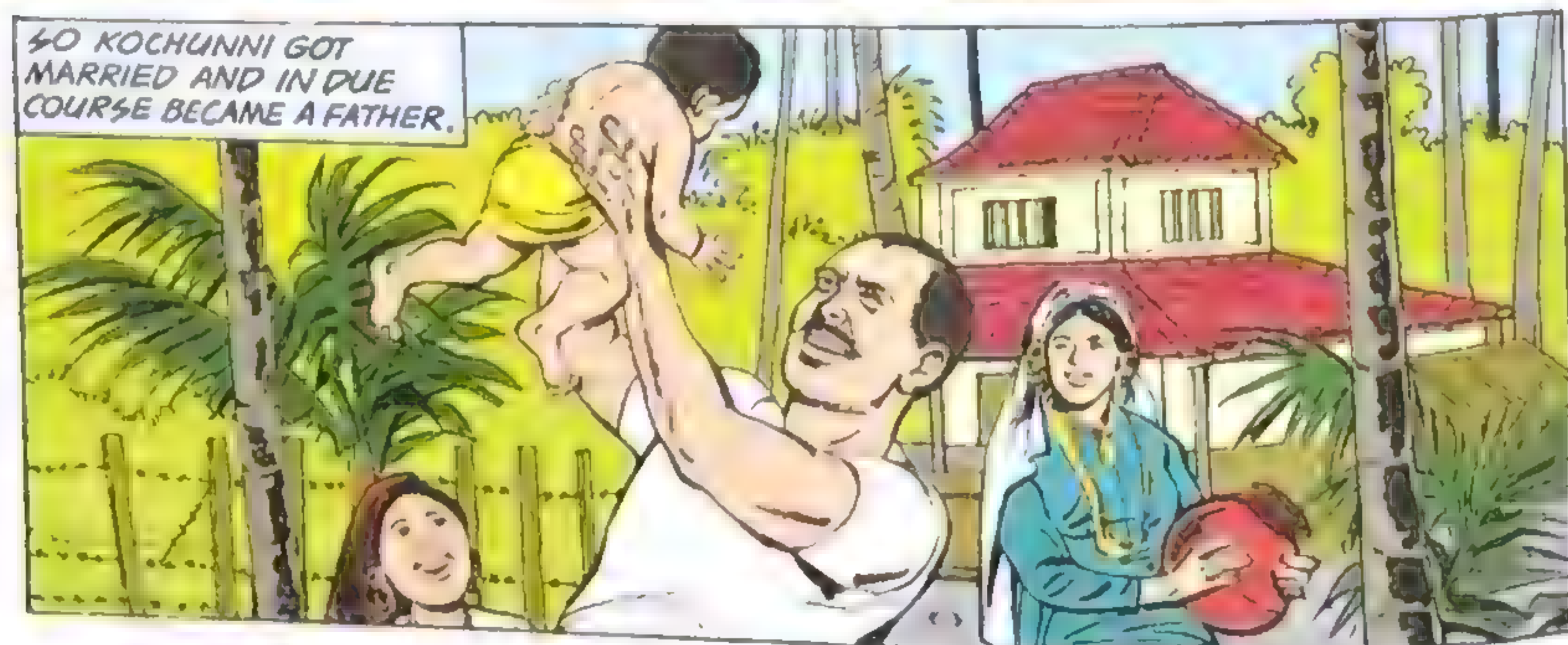
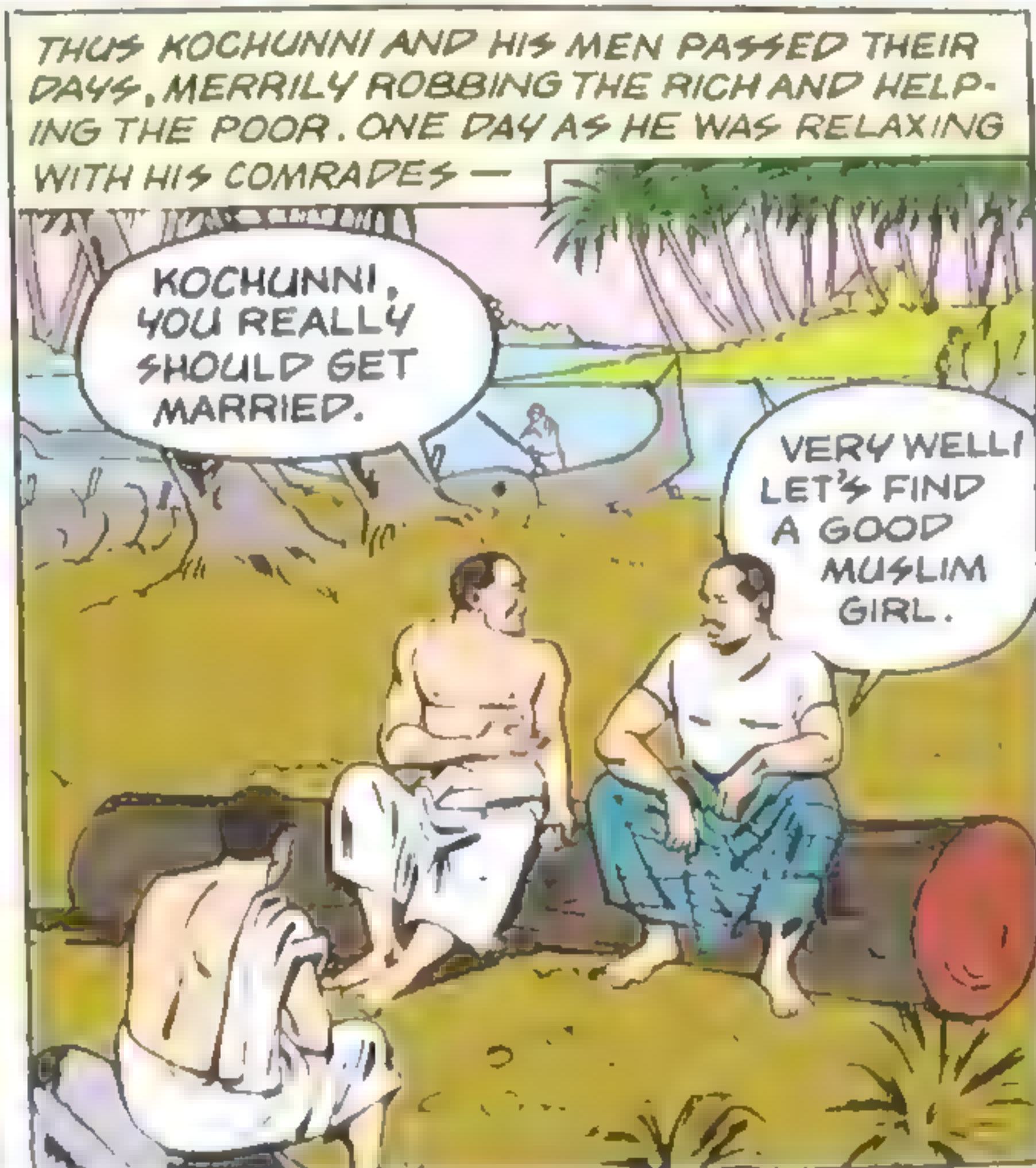
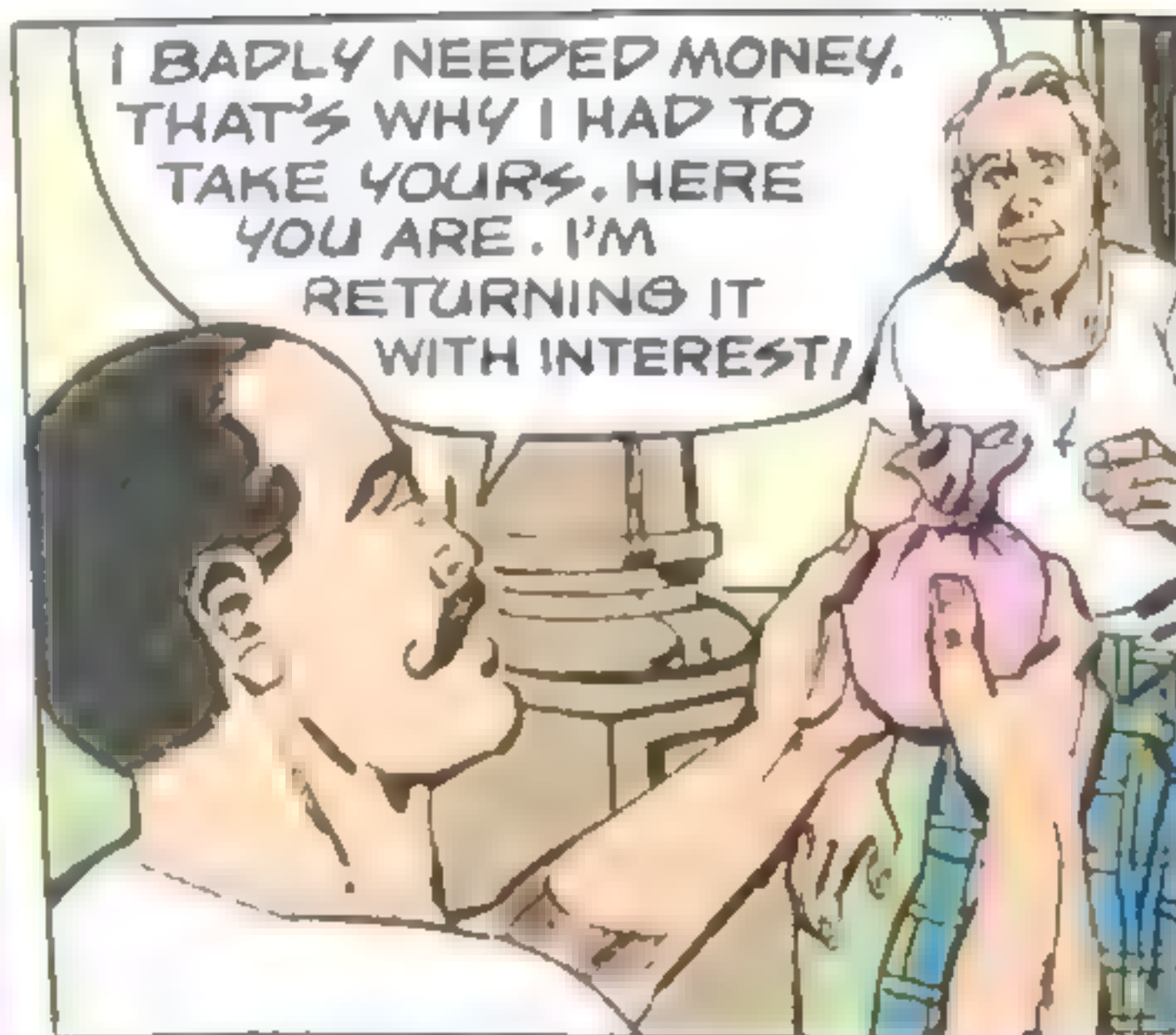
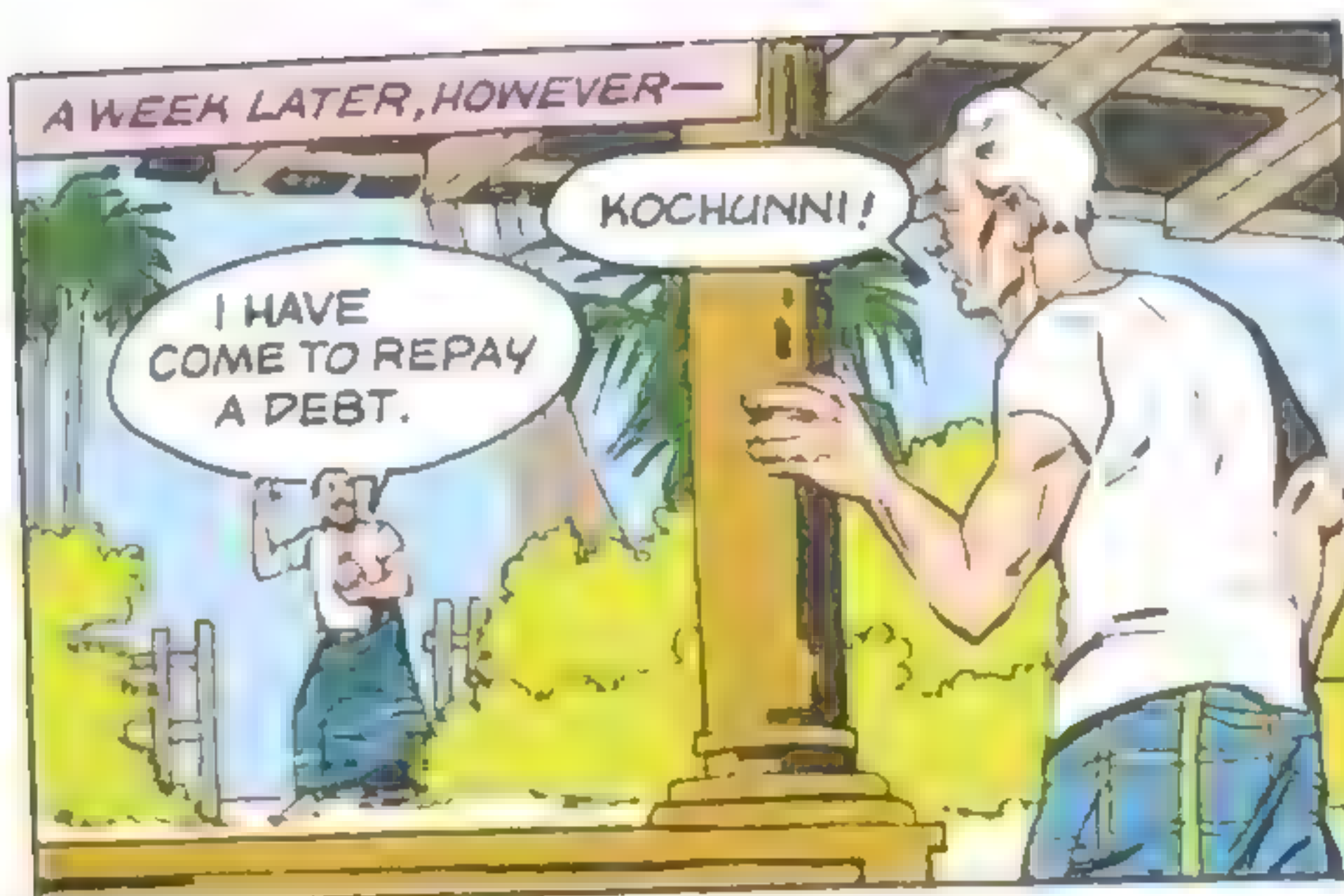




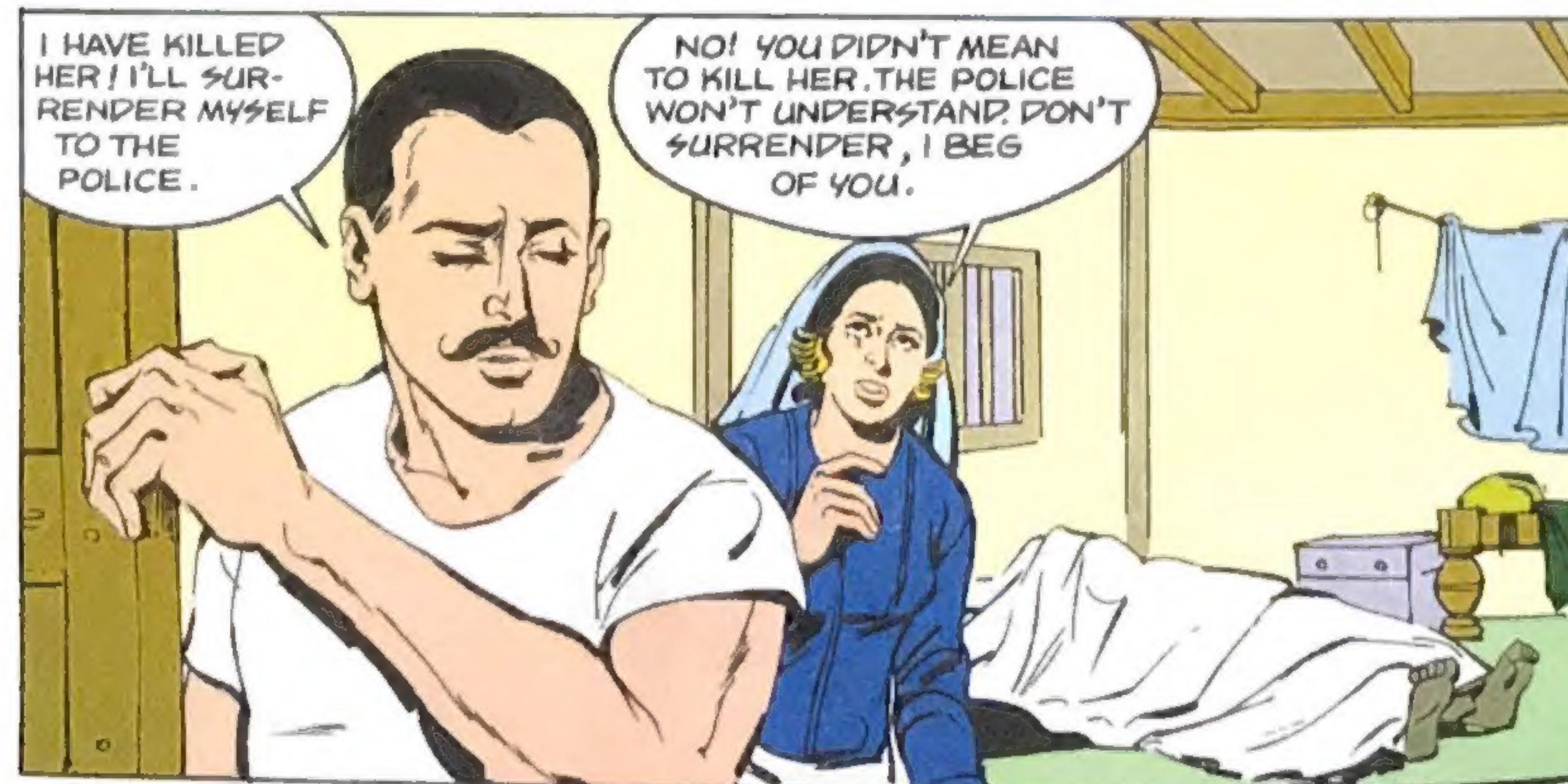
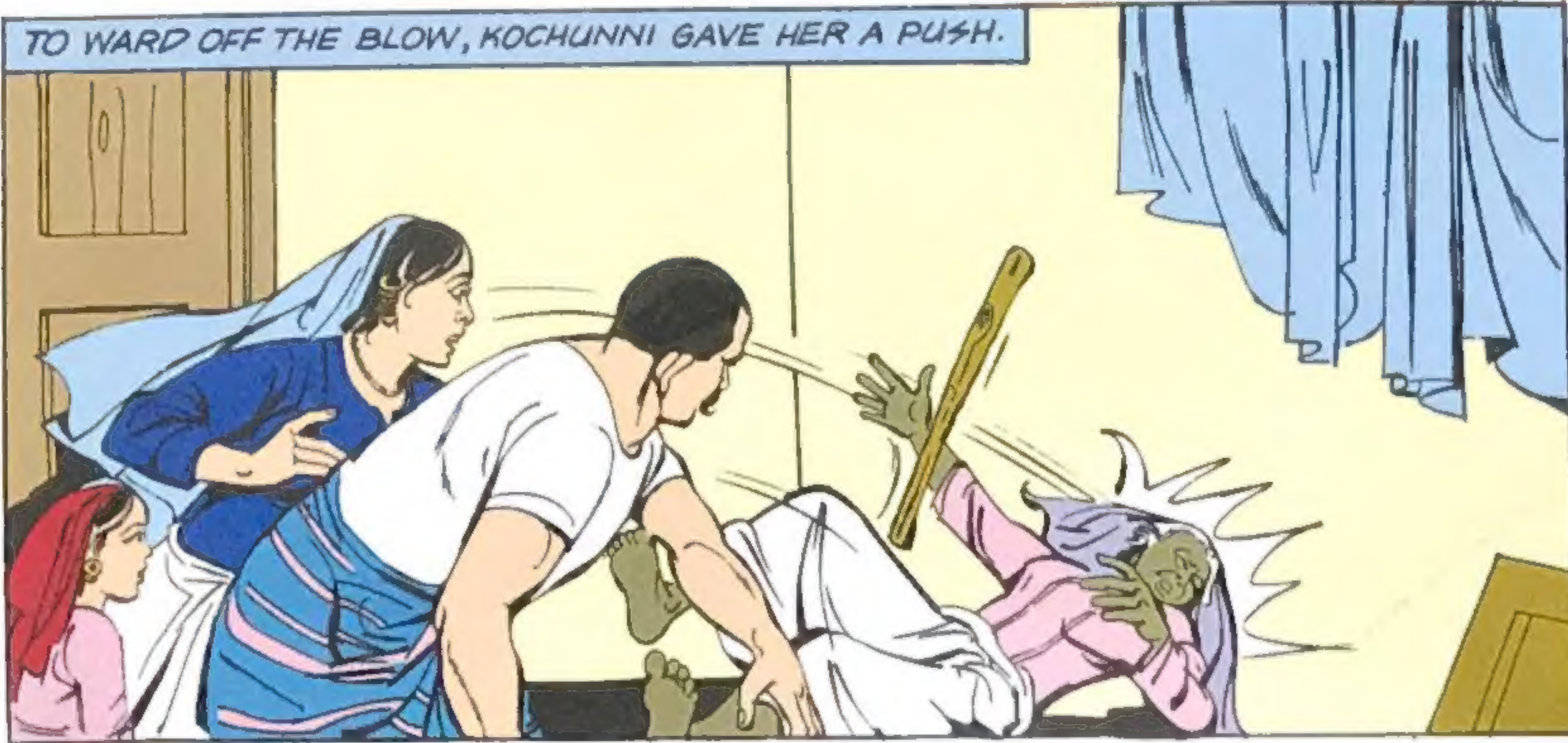








TO WARD OFF THE BLOW, KOCHUNNI GAVE HER A PUSH.

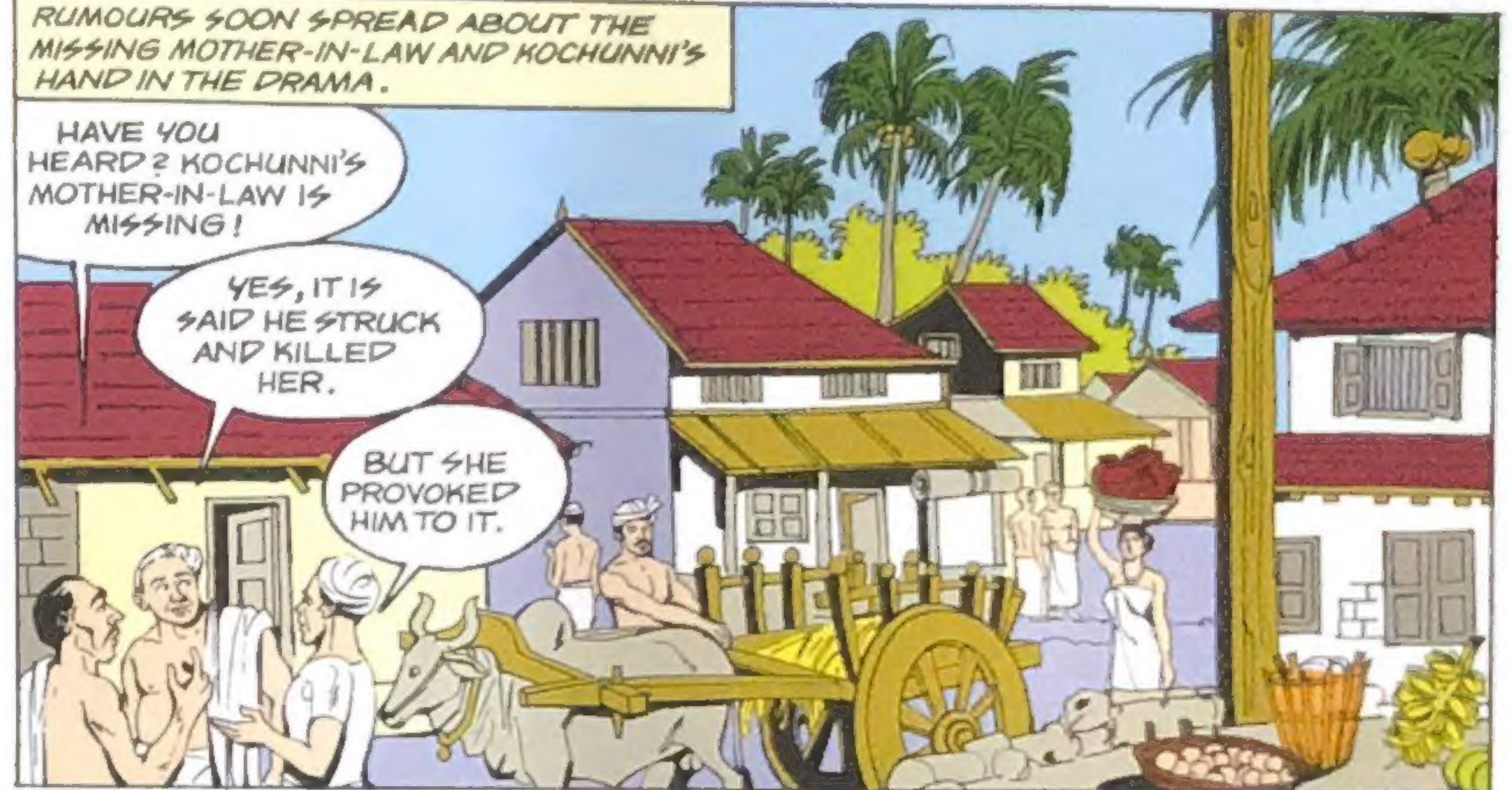


RUMOURS SOON SPREAD ABOUT THE MISSING MOTHER-IN-LAW AND KOCHUNNI'S HAND IN THE DRAMA.

HAVE YOU HEARD? KOCHUNNI'S MOTHER-IN-LAW IS MISSING!

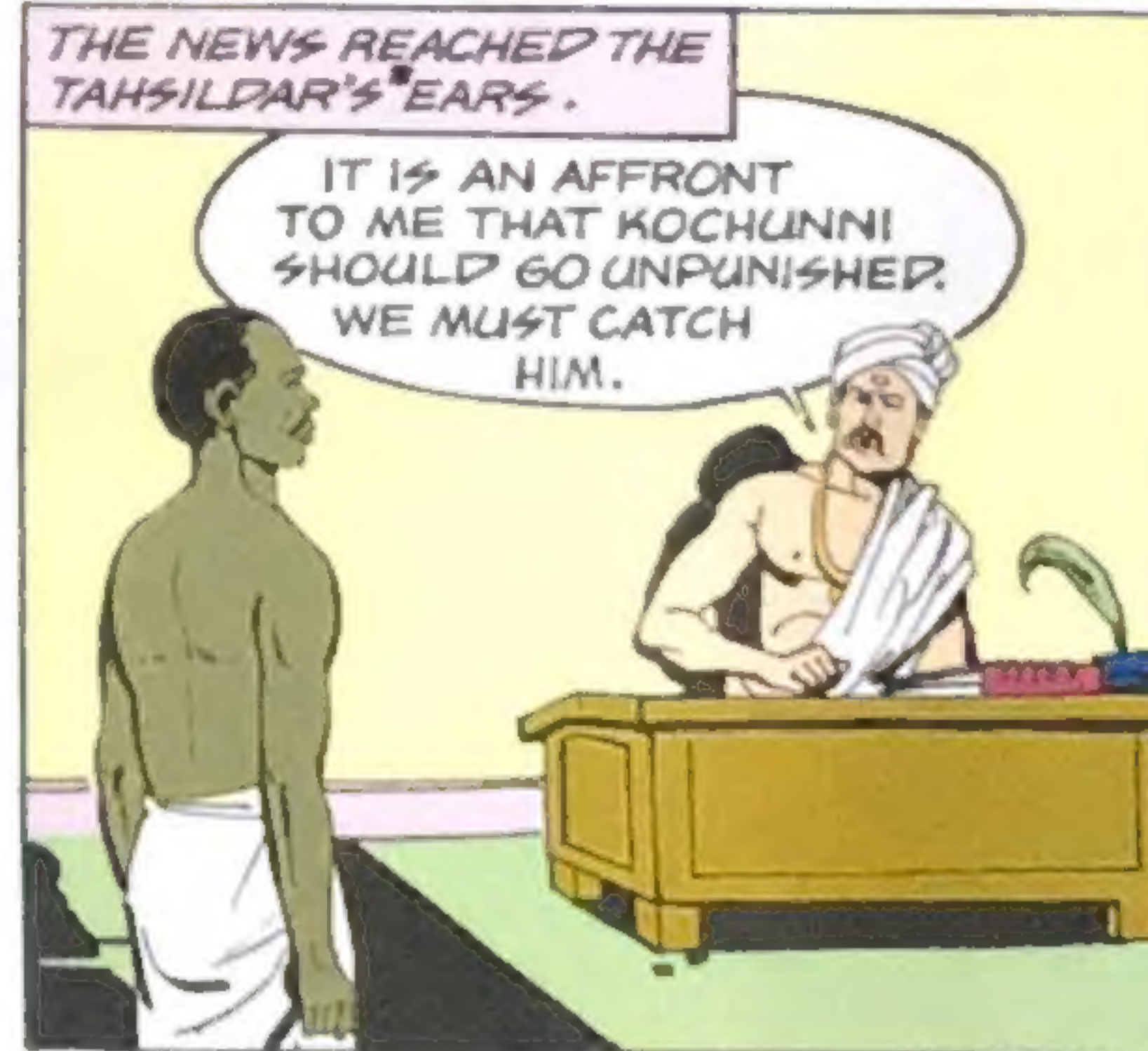
YES, IT IS SAID HE STRUCK AND KILLED HER.

BUT SHE PROVOKED HIM TO IT.



THE NEWS REACHED THE TAHSILDAR'S EARS.

IT IS AN AFFRONT TO ME THAT KOCHUNNI SHOULD GO UNPUNISHED. WE MUST CATCH HIM.



BRING MAMMAD AND KOCHUPILLAI TO ME.

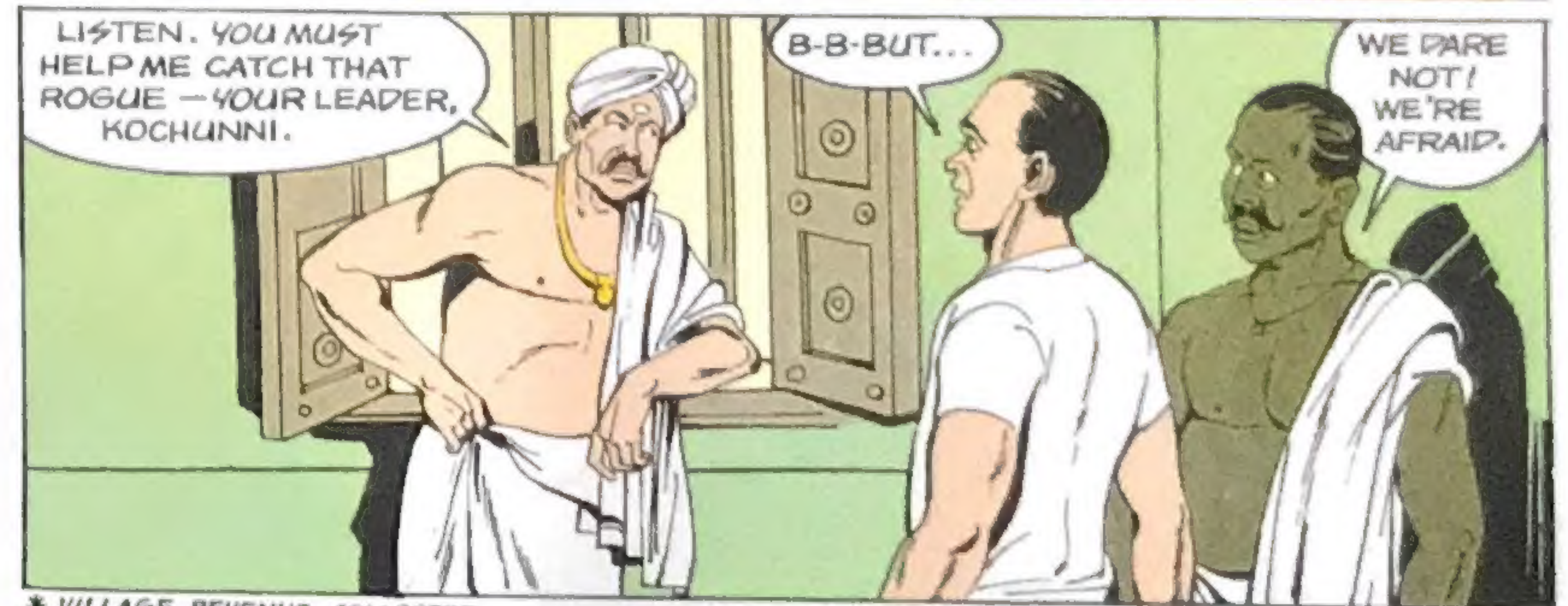
YES, SIR.



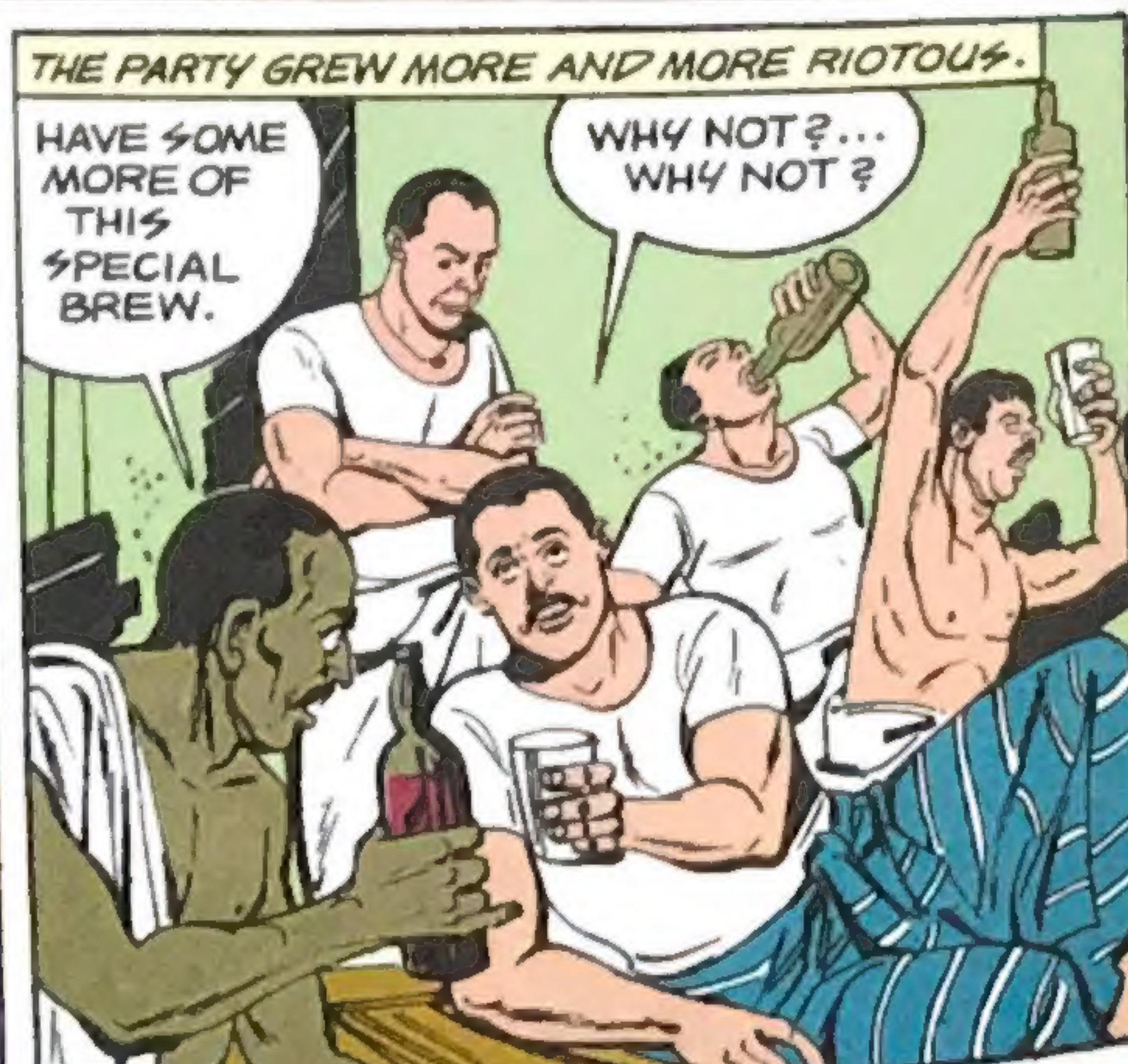
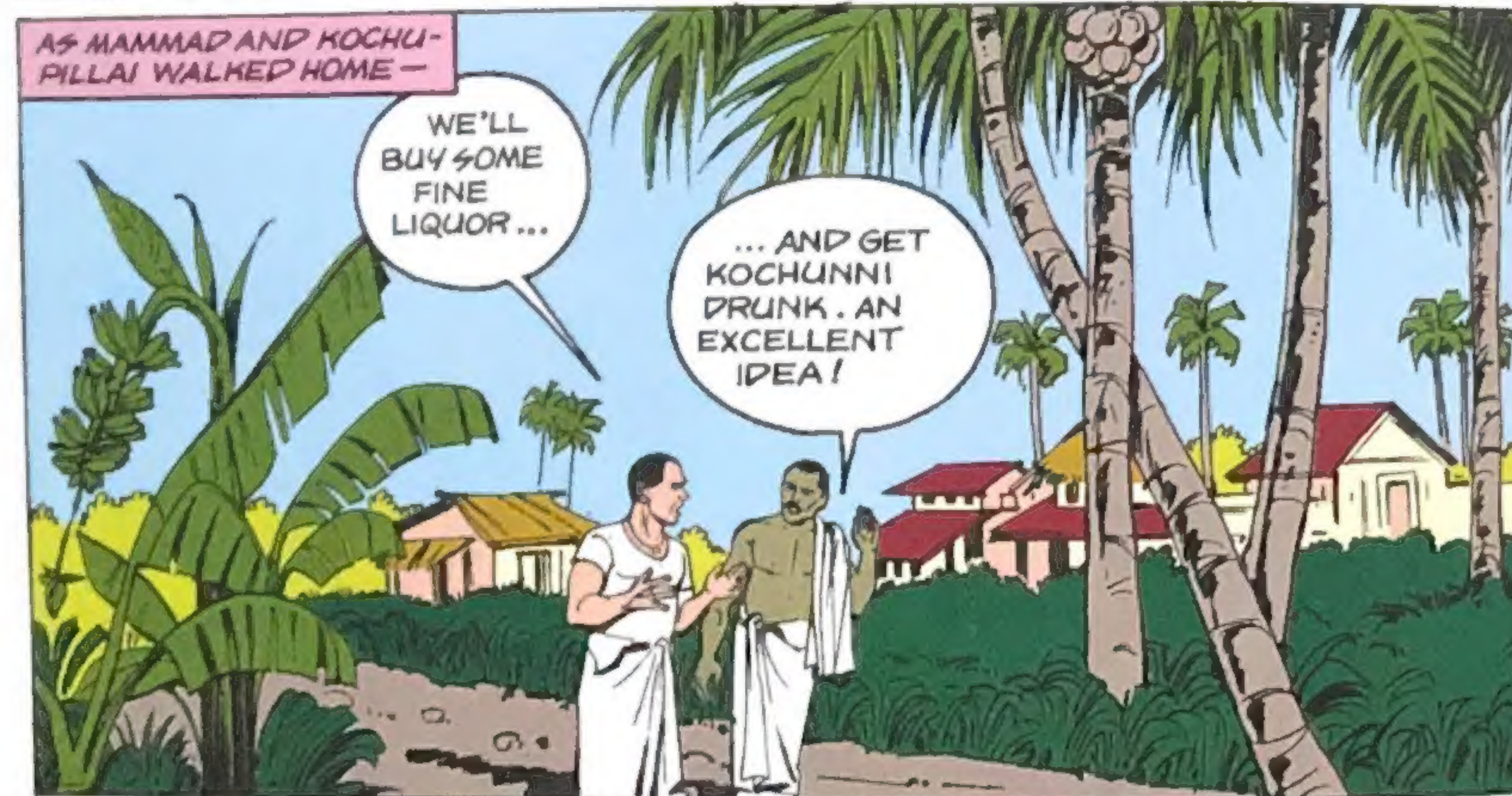
LISTEN. YOU MUST HELP ME CATCH THAT ROGUE - YOUR LEADER, KOCHUNNI.

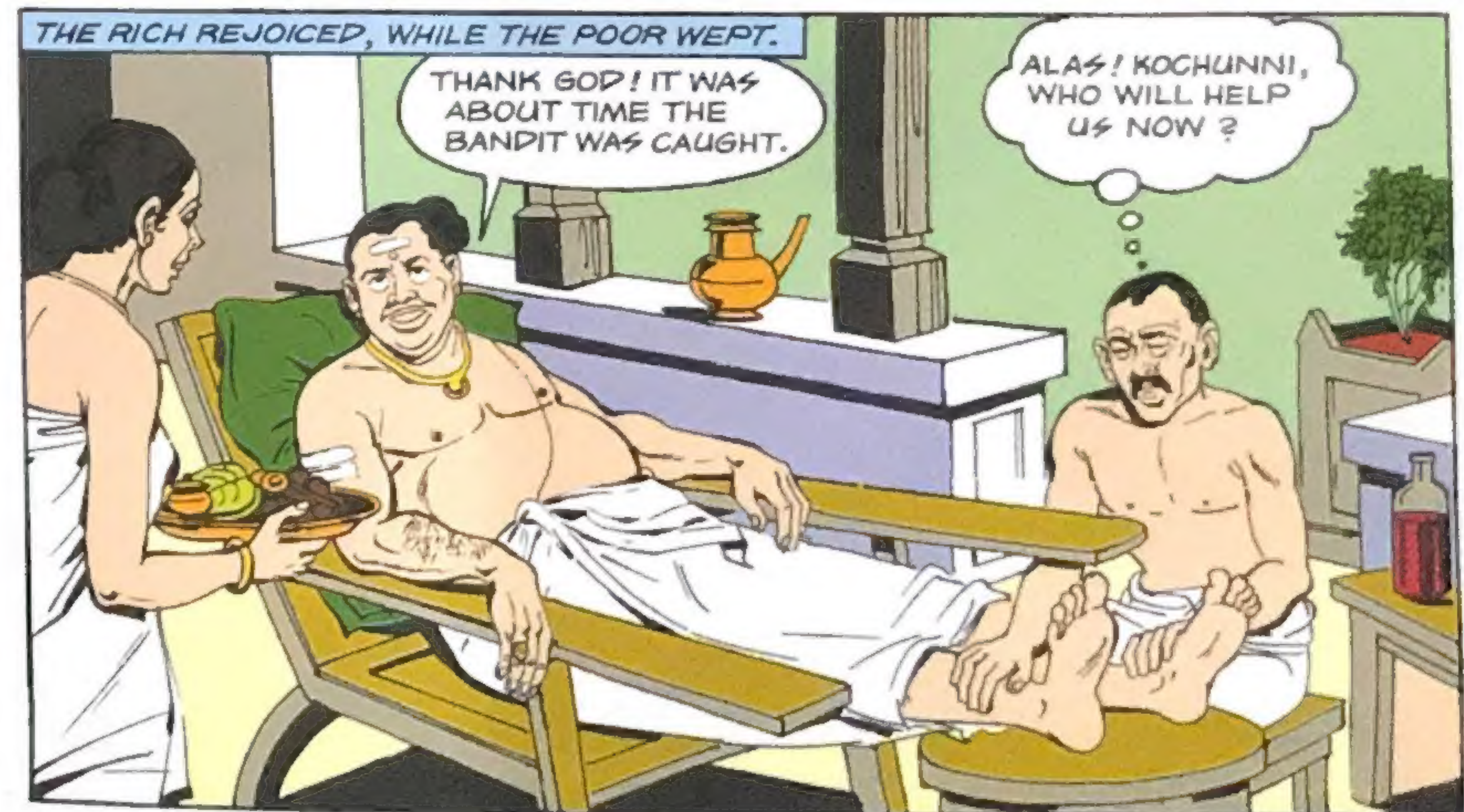
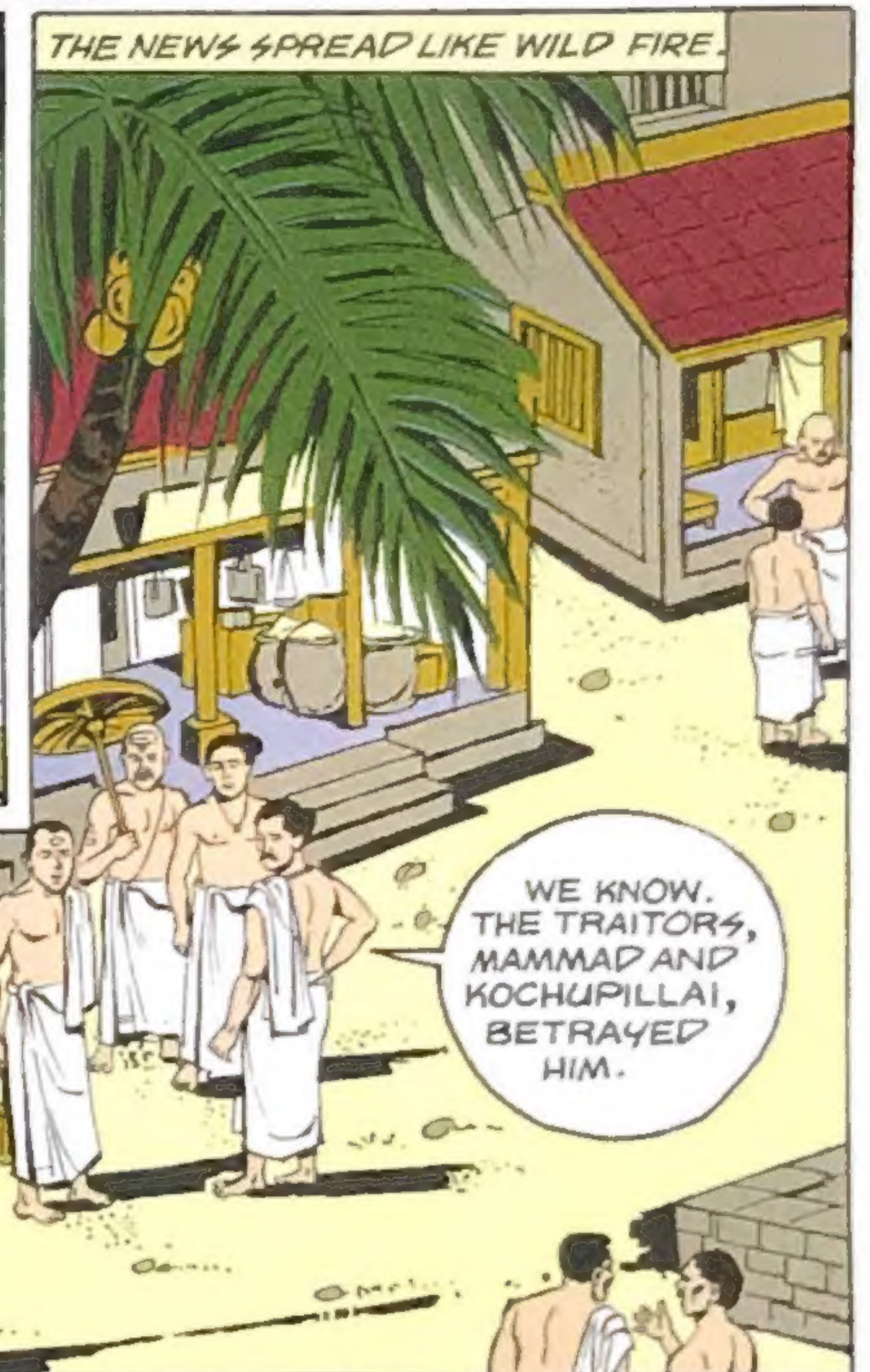
B-B-BUT...

WE DARE NOT! WE'RE AFRAID.



* VILLAGE REVENUE - COLLECTOR





KOCHUNNI WAS KEPT IN A SOLITARY CELL, UNDER A HEAVY GUARD.



ALAS! TOO LATE I REALISE THE TRUTH. JUSTICE IS ONE THING, LAW ANOTHER. MY AIMS WERE NOBLE AND JUST BUT LAW DOES NOT TAKE THESE THINGS INTO CONSIDERATION. MY METHODS WERE UNLAWFUL AND FOR THAT I PAY; FOR THAT I REPENT.



THREE MONTHS LATER, EVEN WHILE HIS TRIAL WAS GOING ON, KOCHUNNI DIED, AND HIS SPIRIT ROAMED FREE ONCE MORE. IT WAS ALMOST AS THOUGH HE HAD WILLED HIMSELF TO DIE. THE MEMORY OF THIS GALLANT OUTLAW LINGERS ON AMIDST THE GRACEFUL PALMS AND SPARKLING LAGOONS HE LOVED SO WELL.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Ganga
Garuda
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Karna
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Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
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Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
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Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
Rabindranath Tagore
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How Friends Are Parted
Hothei

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The Goat
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The Jackal And
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Bappa Rawal
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Bhagat Singh
Bidhi Chand
Bimbisara
Chand Bibi
Chandra Shekhar Azad
Chandragupta Maurya
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Hari Singh Nalwa
Harsha
Hemu
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Kunwar Singh
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